

## **City of Willcox Newsletter March 2010**

### **City of Willcox Budget Process FY 2010-2011**

Ruth Graham, Finance Director

Willcox is preparing its Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (FY11) budget. There are many challenges this year because of the overall economic downturn and the State of Arizona's serious budget challenges. The State just passed its FY10 budget on March 11<sup>th</sup> at about 75% of the way through the fiscal year.

General Fund revenues this year are about 10% below expectations. Our City Sales Tax percentage of collections has not declined as much as it has in other communities, but the decline will impact City services. To keep costs down the City has four unfilled job positions, with one each in Public Safety dispatch, Streets, Development Services, and Public Works Administration. That represents about 5% of our workforce. While the wet winter has been hard on our streets, the Streets Department revenues are one of the areas hardest hit by reductions. Streets receives its funding from HURF (the Highway User Revenue Fund), LTAF (Local Transportation Assistance Fund) funded by the State Lottery, and the 1% City sales tax. HURF revenues have been declining for several years while prices have been increasing. The City's HURF revenues for FY09 were 18% lower than FY06, while FY10 revenues are projected to be lower yet. Current year distributions of LTAF funds were pulled mid-year by the State. We received 50% of the \$17,030 budgeted for the current year, and will budget no LTAF revenues for the upcoming year.

The City Council is carefully considering the FY11 budget. Difficult decisions will be made and public input is requested. For the months of April and May, budget work sessions are tentatively planned prior to the regular Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. We encourage citizens to attend the work sessions and the meetings to provide their input. The agenda and times for each meeting will be posted on the City's website at [www.cityofwillcox.com](http://www.cityofwillcox.com), and more information is available in City Hall or by phone at 384-4271.

### **City Primary Election Results Are In!**

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC, Willcox City Clerk

Following are the results from the City of Willcox Primary Election held on March 9, 2010. There were four (4) seats available and six (6) candidates (originally had seven (7) and one candidate removed himself). Terms are for four (4) years. There are 1,628 Registered Voters in the City. Ballots Processed were 249 (either came to vote at the polling place or voted Early Ballot) of which five (5) were Provisional Ballots and only one (1) Ballot was rejected (not a registered voter). The Certification of Canvass of the

Primary Election: Monika Cronberg-179; William “Bill” Holloway-145; Robert A. “Bob” Irvin-138; and Gerald “Sam” Lindsey-163; Jimmy L. Norris-41 (withdrew); Larry Schultz-82; and Paul Sheats-88. There were three (3) Write-In votes although officially there was no one eligible. Certificates of Election were issued to Cronberg, Holloway, Irvin and Lindsey. The Oath of Office will be administered the latter part of May and the first regular meeting is on June 7, 2010.

### **Now Is The Time To Stand Up And Be Counted!**

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

Now is the time to fill out your 2010 Census Form and return it. What you do now will affect the future of **all** of the people of Willcox, for the next 10 years. Often we say that we would like to help make the City a better place “If I only knew what to do, or if only I had some money to help.” **You can help and it will not cost you anything, and it may save you some money and provide better services. Do you want to fix the roads? You don’t have to fill potholes. You can fill out the Census Form! The amount of money the City receives to fix the roads is directly dependent on the population of the City – the more people that get counted, the more money to fix potholes.**

A large portion of the money the City receives from the State of Arizona is used to pay our Police, our Firefighters, and to take care of the parks.

Help the City, help your neighbor, help yourself – Fill out and return the Census Form.

[Editor’s note: According to the US Census Bureau, approximately \$2,000 comes back to this community for **each person counted!**]

### **Spring Clean Up Time!**

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

It is that time of the year again when we do spring cleaning in the City of Willcox. Earth day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>; the official cleanup day for the City will be Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Plan on gathering your family and friends to help spruce up the town. There are many groups who have already selected areas to clean up. We also have identified various “Hot Spots” which need particular attention. If you would like to participate as a group, please contact either Kathy Smith at the Chamber of Commerce, 384-2272, or Pat McCourt at the City, 384-4271.

Additionally for those who can’t participate on April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Transfer Station in Willcox will be having a “free Dump Day on Saturday, June 5, from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. You can clean up all of those items you have been storing, or were too bulky to fit in the trash containers. If you live in the City of Willcox, are elderly or disabled, and have bulky items to remove, please contact the City of Willcox Public Works Dept at 766-4212.

Thank you for taking pride in our community.

**From the Office of the City Clerk...**

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

**City Council Meetings**

Monday  
Apr 5, 2010

&

Monday  
Apr 19, 2010

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers