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Phoenix Passes Food Tax

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PHOENIX -- The Phoenix City Council voted six to three to pass a 2 percent sales tax on groceries after a contentious [meeting](#), but could still reverse its decision before it takes effect April 1.

The city will hold 15 public hearings to gather public input.

Outside an AJ Fine Food's in Phoenix, shoppers had mixed feeling about the food tax.

"The city council is crazy," said Phoenix resident Judi Edwards. "They're worried (about) inflation and unemployment, and they're passing a food tax?"

"People are already hurting and the last thing you want to do is make it even more difficult to feed their families," Edwards said.

Other shoppers, like Susan Levy, said they're "not bothered" by the tax.

She said preserving city services, like police and firefighters, is important.

Right now, the city is considering cutting close to 1,400 jobs, including 500 police officers and firefighters.

Officers and firefighters spoke in support of the food tax at Tuesday's meeting.

The tax is expected to raise \$50 million during the next [fiscal year](#).



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