

Homepage / Money

## Groups Advocate 4 Percent Food Tax

Cara Liu  
Reporter, KPHO.com

POSTED: 9:11 pm MST February 3, 2010  
UPDATED: 8:56 am MST February 4, 2010

facebook del.icio.us buzz digg  
reddit » Email » Print

PHOENIX -- Grocery shoppers in Phoenix could soon be paying more for food.

Tuesday night, the Phoenix City Council approved a 2 percent food tax over the next five years. Shoppers would be charged an extra \$2 for every \$100 they spend on groceries.

Early estimates show a 2 percent food tax could generate up to \$50 million in extra revenue for the city.

Now, several community groups are pushing for a 4 percent food tax over the next two years to help save even more city jobs and programs during this [budget](#) crisis.

"Would you rather pay \$4 extra, so \$104 instead of \$100 for your groceries? Or would you rather keep the \$4 and lose your after-school programs, lose the (recreation) center, and have your bus fare increase," said Ann Malone, who runs the Indian School Corridor – Citywide Coalition.

"(The four percent tax) will create a surge in order to get us over this economic hiccup we are in, and allow us to keep these vital services," said Will Buividas, chief negotiator for the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association.

The city's current budget proposal includes closing libraries, cutting services and eliminating nearly 500 police and firefighter's jobs. More than 1,300 city jobs in all are on the chopping block as the city struggles to meet a \$245 million budget shortfall.

Some Phoenix families were on board.

"You're talking about my autistic son -- he needs music therapy, and he needs police officers to keep the community safe. These are things I'm willing to do -- (pay a tax of) 2 percent or a 4 percent to [save](#) these people's jobs," said Rikki Garcia, who has a 5-year-old son who is autistic.

For others, times are tough enough already without higher taxes.

"Adding a 4 percent tax to food in particular is just going to hurt the people who don't make enough money already," said Brady Delger, who had two children in tow.

A city spokesperson said Mayor Phil Gordon was unavailable for an interview Wednesday.

Even though the city council has approved the two percent food tax, council members can still change their minds. The city is holding more than a dozen public meetings to hear the community's reaction.

The final version is slated to go into effect in early April.

### Related To Story



### MORE INFO

- Story: [Groups Advocate 4 Percent Food Tax](#)
- Story: [Phoenix Passes Food Tax](#)
- Story: [Grocery Shoppers Brace For Food Tax](#)
- Video: [Push To Double Food Tax?](#)
- Video: [Get Ready To Pay More For Groceries!](#)
- Video: [Food Tax Approved By Phoenix City Council](#)



### Other News Video

- [Porn Star Irked Over Woods' Novelty Golf Balls](#)
- [Driver Caught Using Dummy In Carpool Lane](#)
- ['Now See This...' Video Page](#)