

WHAT HAPPENS TO NAVAJO COUNTY IF PROPOSITION 100 FAILS?

In March, the State Legislature adopted a fiscal year 2010 – 2011 budget that included a number of ‘triggered impacts’ to counties that will be implemented if voters reject Proposition 100.

Among the triggered impacts is a provision referred to as the ‘prisoner shift’ that would require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to transfer all state prisoners with less than a year remaining on their sentence to the jails of the counties in which they were sentenced.

The following is an explanation of the consequences of the prisoner shift, and why it represents a critical challenge for the County and its residents:

The prisoner shift would require the Navajo County Jail to absorb over 200 state prisoners

Problem: *The County Jail is already at capacity and does not have space for an additional 200 inmates.*

Due to the lack of capacity in the Jail, the County would have to release inmates currently awaiting sentencing in order to make space for state prisoners

Problem: *Many of these inmates are violent offenders who would pose a threat to members of the public if they are released into the community; likewise, many of these inmates are likely to flee if released, denying the victims of their crimes the justice they deserve.*

To make space for state prisoners, the County would potentially have to cancel its contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which pays the County to hold a number of federal inmates in the Jail.

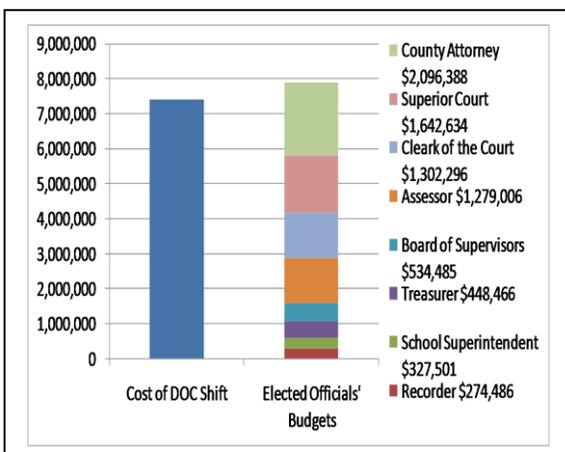
Problem: *The BOP contract provides the County with \$2.2 million each year, revenue that is necessary to pay the debt associated with the Jail’s 2002 expansion.*

Housing state inmates would cost the County \$68 per inmate, per day, or an estimated \$5,112,920 per year for 200+ additional inmates. Coupled with the loss of the BOP contract, the prisoner shift would cost the County an estimated \$7.4 million per year, equivalent to 25% of its General Fund budget.

Problem: *The County has already reduced its budget by 20%. An additional 25% impact would jeopardize the County’s ability to provide essential services, including law enforcement.*

Many of these 200+ prisoners are high-risk, violent, repeat offenders (murderers, rapists, child molesters).

Problem: *These prisoners would pose a serious threat to current Jail inmates, detention officers, and the public. Likewise, the County Jail was not designed and is not equipped to guard such high-risk offenders.*



Left:
The cost of the prisoner shift compared to the budgets of the County's elected officials.

Right:
The cost of the prisoner shift compared to the County's entire general fund budget.

