

## **RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE GRAHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD ORDERING AND CALLING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, TO SUBMIT A QUESTION TO VOTERS CONCERNING A PERMANENT ADJUSTMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1979-80 BASE EXPENDITURE LIMIT; PROVIDING FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION.**

**WHEREAS**, Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”) § 15-1471, as amended, provides that the Governing Board (the “*Board*”) of the Graham County Community College District of Graham County, Arizona, commonly known as Eastern Arizona College (“*EAC*”), may, on the approval of a majority of the qualified electors in the Graham County Community College District voting at a regularly scheduled election, permanently adjust the fiscal year 1979-80 base limit used to determine EAC’s expenditure limitation prescribed pursuant to Article IX, Section 21, of the Constitution of Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, EAC’s current base limit that is used to determine EAC’s expenditure limitation is \$4,508,230, and the Board is proposing to increase the base limit to \$9,016,460, which would result in a \$32,181,287 increase in EAC’s expenditure limitation capacity based on the most recent calculated expenditure limitation (fiscal year 2023); and

**WHEREAS**, the rationale for the request to adjust EAC’s base expenditure limit is as follows: the current base expenditure limit used to calculate EAC’s expenditure limitation was set for EAC in fiscal year 1979-1980. Although EAC’s expenditure limitation is calculated annually, the expenditure limitation has not kept up with the rising costs of supporting students’ educational needs. Increasing the base expenditure limit would ensure that EAC is able to spend existing resources to better support high-technology programs and student support services and on the operational expenses necessary to deliver high-quality educational services to meet students’ academic and career goals. This proposal will not increase taxes but will provide improved flexibility for spending existing resources on EAC’s much needed programs and services. Adjusting the base limit as proposed would allow EAC to accommodate the rising costs associated with programs in high-demand career fields such as healthcare and information technology, including investments in updated equipment and facilities. Furthermore, the adjustment would enhance career and technical education (CTE) non-credit, certificate, and workforce development program offerings across EAC’s campuses and satellite locations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board deems it necessary and in the best interests of EAC to order and call an election, which shall be held in conjunction with the general election on November 5, 2024, to submit to the Graham County Community College District’s qualified electors the question of whether EAC’s base expenditure limit established in 1979-80 shall be permanently adjusted by \$4,508,230 (the “*Election*”).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**Section 1. Ordering and Calling Election.** An Election is hereby ordered and called to be held in and for Graham County Community College District on November 5, 2024, to submit to the qualified electors of Graham County Community College District the question of whether EAC's base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 shall be permanently adjusted by \$4,508,230, as shown on the form of official ballot (the "*Ballot*"), attached as *Exhibit A* and incorporated herein by reference. The EAC Director of Enterprise Risk Management (the "*Director*") is authorized and directed to revise the Ballot if necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution and take all other actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution and to assist the Graham County Elections Department in performing their duties related to the Election.

**Section 2. Conducting the Election in Compliance with Applicable Law.** The Election shall be held, conducted and canvassed in conformity with the general election laws of the State of Arizona, except as otherwise provided by law. EAC shall take all actions necessary to conduct the Election in compliance with applicable laws, which shall include:

- **Informational Pamphlet and Auditor General.** EAC will prepare an informational pamphlet pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 15-1471, 41-563.03 and 19-123 (the "*Informational Pamphlet*") that shall be in a form that the Director deems acceptable. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-563.03, EAC will submit an analysis and summary of the proposed permanent adjustment to the expenditure limit to the Arizona State Auditor General before printing the Informational Pamphlet and at least sixty (60) days prior to the November 5, 2024, election and will comply with all related statutory requirements.

Notice of the Election of November 5, 2024, shall be given by mailing an Informational Pamphlet to each household that contains a registered voter within the Graham County Community College District not less than thirty-five (35) days before the date of the Election.

The Director is authorized and directed to cause the Informational Pamphlet to be prepared and mailed according to all legal requirements and the provisions of this resolution. This may include a supplemental mailing of the publicity pamphlet.

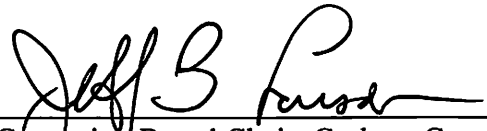
- **Notice for Arguments.** The Director is hereby authorized to request arguments for and against the proposed permanent adjustment to the base expenditure limit that is the subject of the Election for inclusion in the Informational Pamphlet by posting a notice in substantially the form attached as *Exhibit B* (the "*Notice for Arguments*"), at a minimum, at all places at which notices of Board meetings are posted.
- **Precincts and Polling Places.** The Graham County election precincts will serve as the precincts for the Election, including the consolidation of precincts as determined by the Graham County Elections Department. The


location of each polling place will be determined by the Graham County Elections Department, which will conduct the election on behalf of EAC. The polling places will be opened and closed in accordance with law and as provided in the Informational Pamphlet. The Election may be consolidated with any election to be conducted on November 5, 2024, by any overlapping jurisdiction.

- Early Voting. Early voting will be conducted at the Election in accordance with A.R.S. Title 16, Chapter 4, Article 8 and related Graham County election procedures.
- Contracts to Conduct Election. All expenditures as may be necessary to order, notice, hold and administer the Election are hereby authorized. Election expenditures shall be paid from EAC's current operating funds. The Director is authorized and directed to enter into any contract necessary prepare, print and deliver the Publicity Pamphlet to households with registered voters and to enter into an agreement with the Graham County Elections Department or any other Graham County office necessary to conduct the election for EAC.
- Voting Rights Act. The Election shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. Accordingly, the following materials will be translated into Spanish: this Resolution and its exhibits, Notice for Arguments, Informational Pamphlet, ballots, voting instructions and other materials that Graham County election officials deem necessary to translate. EAC will take all steps necessary to ensure that it complies with the Voting Rights Act.
- Canvass. The Election shall be canvassed within twenty (20) days of the Election, as provided by law. Graham County shall include the results of the Election in its canvass of the November 5, 2024, general election. EAC shall immediately notify the Auditor General and the Economic Estimates Commission of the Election results.

[Signatures on following page]

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

  
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Governing Board Chair, Graham County  
Community College District

  
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Governing Board Secretary, Graham County  
Community College District

**EXHIBITS**

- A – Sample Ballot
- B – Notice for Arguments

**EXHIBIT A**

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

PROPOSITION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL TITLE:** A MEASURE REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF GRAHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA (COMMONLY KNOWN AS EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE) RELATING TO AUTHORIZATION TO PERMANENTLY ADJUST THE GRAHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BASE EXPENDITURE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN FISCAL YEAR 1979-80 BY \$4,508,230.

**DESCRIPTIVE TITLE:** Shall the base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 of the Graham County Community College District, commonly known as Eastern Arizona College, be permanently adjusted by \$4,508,230.

BASE EXPENDITURE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT, YES <input type="checkbox"/>
BASE EXPENDITURE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT, NO <input type="checkbox"/>

[At the discretion of the Graham County Elections Department, the question set forth above may be presented on the actual ballot in summary form, reading substantially as follows:]

Shall the base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 of the Graham County Community College District, commonly known as Eastern Arizona College, be permanently adjusted by \$4,508,230?

A “yes” vote shall have the effect of permanently adjusting the Eastern Arizona College’s base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 by \$4,508,230.

A “no” vote shall have the effect of not permanently adjusting Eastern Arizona College’s base expenditure limit established in fiscal year 1979-80 by \$4,508,230.

## EXHIBIT B

### NOTICE FOR ARGUMENTS

#### REQUEST FOR ARGUMENTS “FOR” OR “AGAINST” THE PERMANENT BASE EXPENDITURE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR GRAHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Graham County Community College District of Graham County, Arizona, commonly known as Eastern Arizona College (“EAC”), will hold an election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, seeking authorization to permanently adjust EAC’s base expenditure limit that was established in fiscal year 1979-80. If approved, EAC’s base expenditure limit will be permanently adjusted by \$4,508,230.

EAC will give notice of the Election by mailing an informational pamphlet to households within the Graham County Community College District with a registered voter. The pamphlet will include the full text of the question that will appear on the ballot, as well as arguments submitted for and against the question to be considered at the Election. The full text of the question to be considered at the election and the Graham County Community College Governing Board resolution calling for the election are available at the Eastern Arizona College Student Services Building, 615 N. Stadium Avenue, Thatcher, Arizona, and on EAC’s website at <https://eac.edu/expenditure-limitation/>. Any person interested in providing any such argument(s) is hereby requested to provide it to EAC on or before 5:00 p.m., July 10, 2024.

In accordance with A.R.S. § 19-124, each argument filed shall not exceed 300 words and shall contain the sworn statement of each person sponsoring it; if the argument is sponsored by an organization, it shall contain the sworn statement of two executive officers of the organization or if sponsored by a political committee it shall contain the sworn statement of the committee’s chair or treasurer. Each argument filed shall also be submitted in electronic format to EAC’s Director of Enterprise Risk Management, Laurie Pennington, at [laurie.pennington@eac.edu](mailto:laurie.pennington@eac.edu). The person or persons signing the argument shall identify themselves by giving their residence or post office address and a telephone number, which information shall not appear in the Informational Pamphlet. The Informational Pamphlet will include the names of the persons and entities submitting arguments.

The last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in this election is Monday, October 7, 2024.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please contact Laurie Pennington, Eastern Arizona College Director of Enterprise Risk Management, at [laurie.pennington@eac.edu](mailto:laurie.pennington@eac.edu).