



City of Glendale
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GLENDALE RECEIVES BOND RATING INCREASE WITH STANDARD & POORS *Glendale Recognized for Strong Financial Management*

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The city of Glendale is pleased that Standard & Poor’s (S&P) Global Ratings has increased the rating for the city’s General Obligation Bond (ULTGO) debt to AA- with a stable outlook. Fitch Ratings also reaffirmed its highest rating, AAA with a stable outlook.

“The independent rating agencies continue to validate that Glendale’s economy is thriving and we have a strong foundation that will allow us to sustain the economic growth” said Glendale City Manager Kevin Phelps. “This ratings increase is a result of the disciplined financial decisions of the City Council and our strong financial management policies.”

Phelps credits the Council with setting aggressive goals for general fund balances and showing fiscal restraint on new spending. He also compliments the city’s budget and finance team, which is led by Budget and Finance Director Vicki Rios, for its commitment to good stewardship of the resources that have been appropriated by the Council.

“Today’s rating increase, along with our previous one, means that Glendale’s general obligation bonds have jumped four ratings higher than they were just a few years ago,” said Glendale Mayor Jerry P. Weiers. “This Council has been dedicated to fiscal responsibility and economic development and this rating increase is further proof that our city is absolutely heading in the right direction.”

The S&P Ratings report cites the city’s growing tax base and strong overall financial profile as two important factors in the rating.

Highlights include:

- Continued restoration of healthy reserve levels and fund balance
- Substantial ongoing and planned commercial development in the city
- Very diverse taxpayer base
- Strong city management
- Success in resolving legal disputes

Continued

- Strong financial management policies and procedures
- Well-reasoned and sustainable management practices
- Multiple years of operational surpluses
- Very strong budgetary flexibility
- Strong institutional framework

Ratings agencies, such as Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's analyze financial data and benchmark performance against other cities.

"We take our stewardship of the public's funds seriously and this bond rating increase will result in real financial saving to the taxpayers," said Vicki Rios. "The Council has set clear policies that are strategically focused on keeping Glendale financially sustainable and the rating increase is an independent third-party verification that we are accomplishing that goal."

The city received two bond upgrades within the past three years from Moody's Investors Service. In January 2016, general obligation bonds were upgraded from A3 to A2 and in April 2017, general obligation bonds were again upgraded from A2 to A1. Prior to this bond increase, the city also received a three-notch upgrade in March 2016 from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services from BBB to A+.

The ratings represent independent and objective observations that Glendale's finances are being managed well.

For information about the city of Glendale, please visit www.glendaleaz.com

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