Opportunities & Positives

- Census 2010 data is in: Total Pinal County Population is 375,770 versus 179,727 in 2000. Census data shows that 196,655 residents live in unincorporated areas or in Native American communities.

- Opening public health clinics in Maricopa and San Tan Valley in 2012 to improve access to vital health care, immunizations, disease prevention, nutrition and wellness programs.

- Seeking support at state and federal level for four major priorities:
  - Necessary approvals to allow the Resolution Copper project to move forward, creating good jobs for skilled workers in construction, engineering, operations and management. *(Update: Representative Paul A. Gosar introduced this legislation on May 13, 2011)*
  - Efforts to plan and engineer ways to reduce flooding in the Lower Santa Cruz River Watershed.
  - Funding to widen Hunt Highway to reduce congestion, improve commute times, attract more businesses to the area while also reducing dust and vehicle emissions in the San Tan Valley area.
  - Funding to pave dirt roads to reduce the amount of particulate matter (dust & dirt) in the air.

Challenges

- Net value of assessed property in Pinal County declined 11.58% in FY 2010-11. The decline for FY 2011-12 is projected to be 15.19%.

- During each of the last two legislative sessions, the state swept funds and sent IOUs to cities and counties to help balance the state’s budget. In the most recent budget, the negative fiscal impact to Pinal County taxpayers is $6,221,911. AHCCCS costs have also risen, requiring the County to pay $2.34 million more.

Board of Supervisors’ Plan to Meet these Challenges Responsibly

- The Pinal County Tentative Budget ceiling is $357.1 million. This is 17% lower than the authorized budget ceiling for FY 2010-2011 of $429.8 million.

- Reflects the ramping down and complete elimination (effective October 1, 2011) of Pinal/Gila Long Term Care and Horizon Home Care programs.

- All departments and elected officials were asked to submit budget reductions.

- No employee raises, step increases or cost of living adjustments. There have been no length of service increases since July 1, 2009 and no COLA adjustments since July 1, 2008.

- Adopted a policy to make the Pinal County Fairgrounds a self-supporting facility.

- Approved structural and staffing changes to Pinal County’s Correctional Health by adopting a private sector operational model, resulting in a 13% reduction in operating costs.

- Restructured and consolidated various operations allowing for a reduction of staff levels to meet current economic situation in Pinal County.