

How much will the taxes generate

All approved sales taxes will be effective April 1, 2009 and sunset in 10 years. Estimates for the first two years are as follows.

	.30 percent for streets &	.20 percent for transit	.05 for transit infrastructure expansion*
2009 April - Dec.	\$2,255,900	\$1,504,000	\$376,000
2010 whole year	\$3,945,000	\$2,629,800	\$657,900

*The 0.05 percent sales tax is only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also becomes effective. Voters can not approve only a 0.05 percent sales tax for transit purposes.

Why are sales taxes needed?

The 2007 Citizen Survey ranked street maintenance as the city service that should receive the most emphasis. 62% of respondents said street maintenance should receive the most increase in emphasis from the city.

Confirming the survey results, the city's most recent engineering evaluation found 35.7% of city streets fall within the unacceptable range indicating a need to be reconstructed.

The city does not have adequate funds to replace aging fire trucks on a regular basis. Nine trucks in service exceed nationally recognized replacement standards and lack current safety and technology features.

Launched in 2000, the Lawrence Transit System provides fixed route and paratransit services

(for individuals with disabilities) throughout the community. The system has utilized federal and state funds to match local property taxes for operations. The cost of operation, especially fuel, has increased and outpaced the growth in local property tax revenue.

Questions and contact information

Michael Dever, Mayor
mdever@sunflower.com
(785) 865-4202

Dennis "Boog" Highberger,
Commissioner
boog@lawrence.ixks.com
(785) 843-0995

Sue Hack, Commissioner
suehack@sunflower.com
(785) 842-6608

Rob Chestnut, Vice-Mayor
robchestnut@sunflower.com
(785) 764-3220

Mike Amyx, Commissioner
mikeamyx515@hotmail.com
(h) (785) 843-3089
(w) (785) 842-9425

David Corliss, City Manager
dcorliss@ci.lawrence.ks.us
(w) (785) 832-3400
(h) (785) 842-6777



City of Lawrence

The Flame

We Have
Tomorrow —
Bright Before Us,
Like A Flame."

Langston Hughes

October
2008

Special: Sales Tax Edition



Sales tax proposals for public transportation, streets and infrastructure

Question #1

0.3 percent for streets
and infrastructure

*A special sales tax for public
infrastructure and capital investment*

A dedicated revenue source for streets, sidewalks, trails, equipment, and storm sewers. The sales tax revenue will help Lawrence catch up on the maintenance of residential streets and make improvements to high traffic streets. Projects include the North Lawrence stormwater pump station project; the Burroughs Creek rail to trail, fire trucks replacement, substantial additional investments in residential street maintenance and sidewalk projects, and the rehabilitation and rebuilding of several major arterial and collector streets.

Question #2

0.2 percent for
public transportation

*A special sales tax for public
transit operations and capital
investment*

Public transportation in Lawrence travels throughout the community to businesses, educational institutions and employment areas. With a dedicated funding source, the City will have the resources to merge the transit system with the University of Kansas transit system — ensuring substantial continuing resources to serve both community and student needs in an integrated system.

Question #3

0.05 percent for public
transportation, expanded

*A special sales tax for public
transit system enhancements*

Additional dedicated resources for the transit system will provide for route enhancements and vehicle and facility improvements. Examples include increased bus service frequency on busy routes and alternative fuel buses.

The 0.05 percent sales tax is only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also becomes effective. Voters can not approve only a 0.05 percent sales tax for transit purposes.

When does voting begin?

Advanced voting begins: Oct. 15
www.douglas-county.org

General Election: Nov. 4
Register by: Oct. 20





Sales tax proposals for public transportation, streets and infrastructure

Q: How will sales tax funds be spent?

Streets, Infrastructure and Fire trucks

In Lawrence, 65.8% of streets need more maintenance than is currently funded. 30.1% of city streets need preventative maintenance – crack sealing, mill and overlay and microsurfacing while 35.7% of Lawrence streets need to be rebuilt.

The 2007 Citizen Survey ranked street maintenance as the city service that should receive the most emphasis.

The 0.3 percent sales tax proposal will provide dedicated resources towards this high priority, including the rebuilding of several major streets throughout the community.

Additional funds are dedicated to maintain neighborhood streets. The sales tax proposal also includes dedicated funding for two major community infrastructure projects; 1) the replacement of a 1930's era North

Lawrence Pump Station at Fifth and Maple providing additional storm water protection and 2) completion of the Burroughs Creek rail to trail project in eastern Lawrence matching a state grant. Additional funds will be used to construct sidewalks throughout Lawrence providing pedestrians improved walkways.

Planned major street projects include 19th Street, Iowa to Naismith; Bob Billings Parkway east of Kasold; and portions of Kasold and Wakarusa needing reconstruction.

Passage of the sales tax proposal will allow the Fire Medical Department to follow an annual ongoing replacement plan for fire trucks.

Transit

In 2007, the transit system provided 388,325 one-way trips, and paratransit provided 57,497 one-way trips providing transportation for many Lawrence residents to employment, school and medical services.

What is on the ballot?

There are three questions on the Nov. 4 ballot:

Question #1: a 0.3 percent for streets & infrastructure

Question #2: a 0.2 percent sales tax for transit

Question #3: a 0.05 percent sales tax for transit, expanded

The 0.05 percent sales tax is only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also becomes effective. Voters can not approve only a 0.05 percent sales tax for transit purposes.

The 0.2 percent sales tax will provide dedicated resources to operate the existing fixed route and paratransit service (for individuals with disabilities). This will allow for possible merger with KU's transit system.

The additional .05 sales tax, only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also passes, will provide for transit system enhancements such as higher frequency on core routes, diesel and/or hybrid electric vehicles and additional transit system capital improvements.

Q: What ensures funds are spent on the approved purposes?

A City Commission appointed Sales Tax Oversight Committee will monitor and audit expenditures to confirm sales tax dollars are spent in accordance with the voter approved sales tax initiatives.

Q: How long will the sales tax be in place?

All approved sales taxes will be effective April 1, 2009 and sunset in 10 years.

Q: What are the consequences if the proposals don't pass?

Streets, Infrastructure and Fire Trucks

Without additional resources, the city will make choices on spending cuts, service reductions and/or property tax increases. Street maintenance on the most critical streets will occur but the current funding level doesn't allow

Lawrence to catch up on the deferred maintenance. 35.7% of city streets currently fall within the unacceptable range indicating a need to be reconstructed. Without funding for a fire truck replacement plan, the city's ability to provide reliable fire trucks will be impacted.

Transit

Without the 0.2 percent sales tax revenue, the city will not have budgeted funds to operate the transit system in 2009. If the sales tax votes fail, Lawrence will permanently lose more than \$1.9 million of dedicated federal funds

for bus replacement, in addition to the \$1.8 million in state and federal funds for annual operating expenses. Additionally, the failure of the sales tax will not allow the city to merge the transit system with KU's transit system. Without the 0.05 percent sales tax resources, the city will not have the resources to enhance or improve the transit system.

What will be the sales tax rate? The current sales tax rate is made up of 5.3% State sales tax, 1% County sales tax and 1% City sales tax. If the three sales tax proposals are adopted, Lawrence will have a 7.85% sales tax rate. The 0.05 percent sales tax is only effective if the 0.2 percent sales tax for transit also becomes effective. Voters can not approve only a 0.05 percent sales tax for transit purposes.

For more information:
www.lawrenceks.org
or call (785) 832-3400

Prepared by the Communications Division
Lawrence City Managers Office