

## **The citizens of Douglas County have an important choice to make in the November general election.**

On November 8th, the citizens of Douglas County will have the opportunity to vote on a 1 cent county-wide sales tax. A 1 cent county-wide sales tax is being proposed to address two significant needs:

### **Property Tax Relief**

- A 1 cent county-wide sales tax will allow Douglas County government and the Lawrence City government to reduce their property tax rates by two (2) mills and five (5) mills respectively.

### **New Public Facilities**

- The City of Lawrence plans to use most of its share of the proposed sales tax to provide \$12.2 million in Parks and Recreation improvements. Baldwin City, Eudora, and Lecompton intend to dedicate their share of the proposed sales tax for capital improvements determined annually by their City Councils.
- Severe overcrowding requires that Douglas County increase the number of jail beds in the County from 50 to 170. Estimated cost for the new jail and parking structure for the County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center: \$11.0 million.

- Additional space is needed to house the County's three community health agencies (Lawrence - Douglas County Health Department, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, and the Douglas County Visiting Nurses Association), in order to meet current and future service level demands.

**A 1 cent county-wide sales tax is estimated to produce \$7.0 million each year. Visitors to Douglas County will help fund these needs through their retail purchases.**

### ***How would Parks and Recreation benefit from the 1 cent county-wide sales tax ?***

On May 31, 1994, the Lawrence City Commission adopted a Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Recreation that included \$12.2 million in new and renovated facilities to meet our community's park and recreation needs. Proposed improvements to be added with the money from the 1 cent county-wide sales tax are:

- An addition to the East Lawrence Community Center.
- A major recreation center with an indoor swimming pool.

- A baseball/softball complex.
- Improvements to the Youth Sports Inc. (YSI) complex.
- Renovation of the Municipal Pool.
- Community and Neighborhood Park Acquisition.
- Park Development - in the following areas: Prairie Park, Green Meadows, "Dad" Perry, Hallmark, northwest and southwest.
- A nature and outdoor education center in Prairie Park.
- Bike trail development.
- City entryway landscape improvements.

**In a survey taken for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, 72% of the respondents supported a center especially for youth/teens.**

### ***How would the Lawrence Parks and Recreation needs be met without a county-wide sale tax ?***

The City Commission may decide to build none, some or all of the proposed improvement with other sources of revenue. The most likely source of revenue is the property tax.

### Increasing Demand for Services

*How would the increased costs of the new parks and recreation facilities for the City of Lawrence be financed ?*

Some of the funds from the county-wide sales tax would support some of the operating costs of the new parks and facilities.

*Where will the new and renovated Parks and Recreation facilities be located ?*

There are seventeen improvements planned throughout the City of Lawrence. Improvements will add needed facilities based upon surveys, questionnaires and input results developed during the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. All parks and recreation facilities are available to all residents regardless of where they live. In some cases new facilities will free up neighborhood facilities for more neighborhood uses. A new baseball/softball complex will free up Holcom Sports Complex, Hobbs Park and Broken Arrow Park diamonds for youth leagues during peak ball seasons.

**Why are these improvements needed ?**

User groups such as youth baseball organizations, swim programs, and educational classes have asked for more space. Waiting lists for programs grow longer, and use of

school facilities and gyms are more limited due to school program growth. Parks and Recreation has had to limit enrollment in many activities because of limited facilities.

***What do I have to do in order to vote in the election ?***

In order to participate in the November 8th election, you must be a registered voter. If you have moved since the last time you registered to vote, you must re-register. You can obtain registration information by calling the Douglas County Clerk's Office at 832-5267. In order to vote in the November 8, 1994 election, you will need to register by October 24, 1994.

If you are unable to physically get to the polls, or plan to be out of town and wish to vote in the November 8th election, you can call the Douglas County Clerk's Office at 832-5267 to receive more information about casting an absentee ballot. If you would like more information about the 1 cent county-wide sales tax proposal, you may contact Fred DeVactor at 832-3450.

**VOTE  
ON  
NOVEMBER 8TH**

## **What a 1 Cent County-Wide Sales Tax Would Mean For The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Services**



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