

### **What impact has the existing sales tax had?**

Annually, the City inspects the current condition of the streets. Based on that inspection, a score is given to each street within the City. Since the passage of the sales tax in 2008 the condition of streets has improved by 10%. However, without renewal of the infrastructure sales tax, the City will be challenged to continue to maintain and improve street conditions.

### **What are the impacts if the infrastructure sales tax sunsets in 2019?**

Without the renewal, the City will make choices on spending cuts, service reductions and/or property tax increases. The 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Plan assumes the

passage of the infrastructure sales tax and therefore would have to be significantly reduced. Additionally, the City's fire truck and equipment replacement plan would be negatively impacted.

### **When and where do I vote?**

The general election will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Advanced voting begins October 18. You can find more information, including the location of polling places and how to register to vote, at [www.douglascountyks.org/depts/voting-and-elections](http://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/voting-and-elections).

## **Proposed 0.3% Sales Tax for Infrastructure**

In November, voters in Lawrence will be asked the following:

"Shall the City of Lawrence, Kansas be authorized to impose a special purpose city retailers' sales tax in the amount of three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) on retail sales consummated within the City of Lawrence, Kansas, for the purposes of constructing, improving, and maintaining public streets, sidewalks, storm water facilities, and recreational trails and paths including residential traffic calming devices, residential curb and gutter replacement, improvements to crosswalks and accessible ramps, reconstruction of roads and intersections, purchasing fire apparatus and related fire equipment including radios and personal protective equipment, and such other related street, sidewalk, storm water, and recreational path infrastructure, and fire equipment purposes as may be in the best interest of the City, the collection of such sales tax to commence on April 1, 2019 and shall terminate ten years after its commencement, all in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 12-187 et seq., and amendments thereto?"

More information at  
[www.lawrenceks.org/sales-tax/  
proposal](http://www.lawrenceks.org/sales-tax/proposal)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## About the Proposed 0.3% Sales Tax for Infrastructure

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### How much is the proposed sales tax and how long will it last?

The proposed sales tax is 0.3%. Collection would begin in April of 2019 and the sales tax must sunset after ten years.

### If approved, how much of the sales tax I pay would go to infrastructure?

For every \$1 of purchase price, \$0.003, or three thousandths of one dollar, of sales tax paid would go to infrastructure. Put another way, you would pay six-cents on a \$20 purchase for infrastructure.

### Is this a tax increase?

There is a 0.3% sales tax currently in place for the purpose of funding improvements to the City's infrastructure and equipment. Voters are being asked to renew the current sales tax for infrastructure and equipment for another 10 years. If the sales tax is not approved by voters, the existing 0.3% sales tax will sunset in March of 2019, lowering the City's sales tax rate.

### How much money will be generated by the sales tax?

The 0.3% sales tax is projected to generate approximately \$6 million dollars annually. If approved by voters, the sales tax won't take effect until April 1, 2019 so only nine months of sales tax would be collected that year. Similarly, the sales tax must sunset in March of 2030, so only three months of sales tax could be collected that year.

### What could the sales tax be used for?

The ballot language outlines the permissible uses of the sales tax. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Reconstructing, improving, and maintaining streets, sidewalks, storm water facilities, and recreational trails and paths
- Lifesaving equipment for Fire Medical Department (i.e. fire trucks, radios, personal protective equipment)
- Residential street maintenance
- Curb and gutter rehabilitation
- Installation of accessible ramps throughout Lawrence

### What has the existing sales tax been used for?

The current 0.3% sales tax for infrastructure has been used to fund a variety of projects, such as residential street maintenance, sidewalks, trails, and fire equipment. Additionally, it has been used to fund major street improvements such as:

- Intersection at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Iowa
- 19<sup>th</sup> Street from Iowa to Naismith
- Wakarusa from Bob Billings Parkway to Harvard
- Kasold from Clinton Parkway to 31<sup>st</sup> Street
- Kasold from Bob Billings Parkway to 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

