



Additional Facts About Waite Park's 1/2 Percent Sales Tax.....

Sales Tax Specific Project Information

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

- * Up to \$20 million of sales tax would be collected to fund and address public safety facility needs.
- * The City of Waite Park has a need to construct a new Public Safety Facility to address both police and fire service needs. We are currently out of space.
- * Public Safety is a regional safety service in Waite Park as 80% of those arrested come from **outside** the City of Waite Park.
- * The demands for police and fire service have increased over the years. The City has over 10,000 police calls a year and over 220 calls a year for the City's part-time fire department.
- * Sales tax can be used in place of property taxes to pay for these improvements.


REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- * Up to \$7.5 million would be collected for regional trail connections.
- * Plans have been in place for over 10 years.
- * Plans would include connecting two regional trail systems ; Glacial Lakes Trail (from Willmar) and Lake Wobegon Trail (from Osakis) together.
- * This connection would allow people to hop on a bike in Willmar and ride all the way to Duluth on a trail.
- * Will connect Stearns County Quarry Park to the trail system.
- * Will address pedestrian safe crossings of County Rd #75 and Highway #23.

Official ballot questions for the November Election

OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
CITY OF WAITE PARK
STEARNS COUNTY
MINNESOTA

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

To vote in favor of a question below, fill in the oval next to the word "YES" on that question. To vote against a question below, fill in the oval next to the word "NO".

QUESTION NO. ___ SHALL THE CITY IMPOSE A SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY?

<input type="radio"/> YES	Shall the City of Waite Park impose a sales and use tax of one-half of one percent (0.50%) for no more than 19 years or until \$20,000,000, plus an amount equal to interest and the costs of the issuance of any bonds, is collected, to finance the construction and equipping of a new public safety facility in the City? The total sales and use tax approved by voters at this election to finance this project and any other project will not exceed one-half of one percent (0.50%).
<input type="radio"/> NO	

QUESTION NO. ___ SHALL THE CITY IMPOSE A SALES AND USE TAX FOR REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS?

<input type="radio"/> YES	Shall the City of Waite Park impose a sales and use tax of one-half of one percent (0.50%) for no more than 19 years or until \$7,500,000, plus an amount equal to interest and the costs of the issuance of any bonds, is collected, to finance regional trail connections in the City? The total sales and use tax approved by voters at this election to finance this project and any other project will not exceed one-half of one percent (0.50%).
<input type="radio"/> NO	

For more information:

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More information will also be available on our website at www.ci.waitepark.mn.us

General Election is November 8th!

Did you know that 80% of sales tax collected in Waite Park comes from outside the City?

Here's the facts about Waite Park's 1/2 Percent Sales Tax....

What is it?

The City of Waite Park will have two referendum questions on the ballot in the November election. The questions will be asking voters to consider approval of an additional one-half (1/2) percent sales tax to be used for two specific projects. The first project is to spend up to \$20 million on Public Safety Facility Improvements and the second project is to spend up to \$7.5 million for regional trail connections. The tax would sunset after 19 years or after the funds have been raised to fund these two specific projects.

Why consider an additional one-half (1/2) percent sales tax?

Property tax and local option sales tax are the two main sources of revenue for a City. New State laws regarding sales tax, has provided Waite Park with an opportunity to consider using sales tax to fund these two specific projects. Sales tax allows us to spread the cost of these projects to those that spend money in Waite Park where property tax only spreads the cost of these projects to those that own property in Waite Park.

How many years would the sales tax be collected?

The additional sales tax would be collected for no more than 19 years. Once the projects are funded, the sales tax will no longer be collected. No additional projects can be completed with these funds.

Sales Tax General Information

Waite Park has a resident population of 8,867 and a day time population over 30,000. This means Waite Park has over 3 times more people that visit our community than those that live in the community, making Waite Park truly a regional destination center.

Sales tax is a user tax. It is paid by anyone shopping in Waite Park. **80% of the sales tax collected in Waite Park is generated by those who live OUTSIDE the community.**

Unlike the other St. Cloud area cities, Waite Park does not receive any Local Government Aid from the State of Minnesota. Our main revenue is property tax and sales tax.

Sales tax can be used to fund approved local projects that would otherwise be paid for with property taxes.

Long-range planning efforts have identified over \$37 million in capital projects in Waite Park. The cost of this cannot be supported by property taxes alone. As a result, the City is looking at sales tax as an option for funding.

Approximately \$27 million of sales tax revenue is collected by the State of Minnesota annually in Waite Park.

Approximately \$1.5 million will be generated annually by the additional proposed, one-half (1/2) of one percent sales tax. These funds will stay in Waite Park and would be used to fund the proposed projects.