

A FOUR-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) SALES TAX FOR LIBRARY, STREET AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**FEBRUARY 25, 2014
GENERAL ELECTION**



The Ballot Question:

Shall the City of Winfield, Kansas be authorized to impose a four-tenths of one percent (0.40%) City-wide retailers' sales tax (the "Capital Improvements Sales Tax"), the proceeds of which shall be used to finance the costs of library, street and other capital improvements throughout the City; the collection of such Capital Improvements Sales Tax shall commence on July 1, 2014, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law, and shall terminate seven (7) years after its commencement; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-187 et seq. and K.S.A. 25-431 et seq., as amended?

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Is this a new tax?

Yes. This is a new sales tax proposal

Is there a sunset on the tax?

Yes. The sales tax would begin July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2021.

What happens after the election?

If the proposal passes, income from the tax will be distributed to the City in September 2014. Most of the initial proceeds will go toward the renovation of the library. If the issue passes, the City would begin bidding for street renovations in 2015.

What will the proceeds be used for?

\$900,000 will be used for Winfield Public Library Improvements. The remainder is for local street improvements and related items.

Why a sales tax?

The sales tax shares the expense of City improvements with visitors. It ensures out-of-towners who shop and dine in Winfield help pay for services they use but are otherwise funded by residents' property taxes.

For every \$100 spent on taxable goods and services in Winfield, 40 cents would go to improve Winfield.

Winfield's sales tax is currently the **3rd lowest** among Kansas communities above 10,000 population.

According to our Vision 20/20 Survey, Winfield residents have consistently ranked the maintenance of City streets as a top priority. The City recognizes that well-maintained streets are of great importance to Winfield citizens, and that is why resources continue to be invested into the Street Maintenance program.

Funding Shortfall

The City is committed to diverting as many resources as possible to maintain streets at desired service levels. The Street Maintenance Program, however, cannot complete its mission of maintaining all Winfield streets in Good or Better condition with current funding. On average, an additional \$700,000 annually is needed in order to stop the fast degradation of street conditions. The City cannot budget for this amount without impacting other services that taxpayers have said are high priorities.

Capital Improvements Sales Tax Election Dates

2014

Feb 4 – Last Day to register to vote
Feb 7 – Ballots mailed
Feb 25 – Election day and deadline for ballot return (by noon)
July 1 – 0.40% Sales tax begins (if approved)

2021

June 30 – Sales tax increase ends



FUNDING OPTIONS

Property Taxes

An additional 10.735 mills would be required to fund these improvements. For the past three years, the City of Winfield has **lowered** its share of property taxes. For 2014, the mill levy is at its lowest rate since the 2009 budget year. Based on property value, this amounts to:

\$50,000 Home = \$ 61.73 yearly
\$100,000 Home = \$123.45 yearly
\$200,000 Home = \$246.90 yearly



Sales Tax

Approval of the four-tenths of one percent (0.40%) sales tax will generate an estimated \$700,000 per year. The revenue from the Capital Improvements Sales Tax will be used to pay for library, street and other capital improvements.

Learn more at www.winfieldks.org/2014SalesTaxElection

City of Winfield Street Maintenance

Will the City use this money for Highway repair?

The City Commission has stated that the proceeds from the sales tax would be used for non-highway streets. The City uses money from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to assist in the maintenance of US 77 Highway (Main Street) and US 160 (9th Avenue). We have approximately 6 repair projects on one of the highways every decade, depending upon costs. This proposal would not affect the partnership with KDOT.

What streets will be fixed?

In 2009, the City Commission appointed Winfield residents to a Street & Transportation Advisory Task Force to assist in developing an annual street maintenance project list. In 2010, the City developed a street condition inventory and maintenance plan. Each paved street was evaluated, given a rating score, and assigned a cost estimate for repairs.

Currently, the City spends about \$150,000 in construction funds to contract for non-highway street maintenance. If we are performing major maintenance (pavement milling and asphalt overlay work), an annual appropriation will fix approximately 1 mile of paved streets every year. We have approximately 75 miles of non-highway paved streets in Winfield. Under the sales tax proposal, the City would perform additional activities in the following areas:

		Cost per Lane Mile
Preventive maintenance:	Crack sealing	\$3,000
Minor maintenance:	Slurry seal	\$24,000 - \$34,000
Major maintenance:	Mill and Overlay and accessible ramps	\$125,000 - \$155,000
Reconstruction:	Curb and Gutter replacement, major street rehabilitation and accessible ramps	\$900,000 - \$1.25 million

Each maintenance area has different costs and each street has different needs. This program is designed to extend the life of good streets and rehabilitate streets that have not had much attention in the past. Occasionally, projects within the initial plan might be moved because of conditions relating to utilities, like repairs to the water or sewer system requiring streets to be improved sooner than originally expected. Many of the water and sewer lines within the community were put in during the 1930s or earlier, and just like at home, repairs become necessary.

It will be impossible to fix every paved street in town during the 7 year period. But during the final 5 years of the program, the sales tax proceeds and the current \$150,000 in construction funds should allow us to annually repair 5 or 6 miles of non-highway streets during those years, depending upon the scope of work performed. This program will not be paving streets that are currently unpaved.



Your Place to Grow The Winfield Public Library Renovation Project

Bright Tomorrows Planted Today

Your Place to Grow 21st Century Library Renovation Project positions Winfield Public Library as an information hub where you can find the resources to achieve more in life. It envisions a Winfield with the capacity to fill its offices and businesses with capable employees, manage its professional needs and create the innovative ideas that will take us to the future.

Current space is not designed for 21st Century needs and uses. The proposed renovations rethink the existing space to function better for the benefit of all patrons. Mechanical and electrical upgrades will increase comfort and function throughout the facility. There will be quiet spaces for test taking, "Skype" conferencing and small group meetings. The creation of a warming kitchen in the large meeting room will immediately improve its functionality for the community.

The most visible differences will be in the children's area with a new Discovery Center, expanded storytime/programming space, and in the creation of a new area dedicated for teenage patrons. Having age-specific areas with suitable furnishings and equipment will enhance the experience of all patrons.

The project will be funded through \$900,000 in sales tax dollars, \$300,000 from library reserves, \$100,000 from Winfield Economic Development and a \$200,000 capital campaign.

Project Snapshot

- *Updates electrical distribution equipment throughout the building to accommodate growing use of new technologies.
- *A small conference room will be added for test-taking, conferencing & small group meetings.
- *Young adults will have their own space with the technology & resources they need for study and skill development.
- *A Discovery Center for children with a space for hands-on activities for learning & exploring.
- *Outdated and insufficient lighting is replaced with newer, efficient lighting. The addition of windows adds natural light.
- *Additional exit from the meeting room meets code requirements. A new HVAC unit provides greater comfort & efficiency.
- *A new family bathroom & the remodel of the staff restroom will meet facility & ADA requirements.
- *Expansion of front entry with north & south doors prevents children from running into the drive.
- *Alignment of a new corridor improves visibility from front desk for added oversight and safety.
- *New carpet, ceiling tiles & other changes improve acoustics throughout.

Who benefits from the Library Renovation Project? Babies & Toddlers ■ Preschoolers ■ School Children ■ Teens ■ Adults ■ Seniors ■ Entrepreneurs ■ Crafters ■ Hobbyists ■ Do-It-Yourselfers ■ Business People ■ Readers ■ Newspaper Fans ■ eReaders ■ Techies ■ Job Hunters ■ Lifetime Learners ■ Big Groups ■ Small Groups ■ Virtual Groups ■ **YOU**

Information provided by the Winfield Public Library