

12. Question: What happens if the sales tax referendum is defeated?

Answer: If the sales tax referendum is defeated, the school facilities and other improvements that would have been paid for with this sales tax revenue will instead have to be paid for with other local funds - primarily property taxes. At present, each 1 cent of property tax rate produces about \$ 388,500.

NOTE: Voters who are already registered to vote need not re-register to vote in this election. Residents who are not registered to vote must register by February 7, 2020 to be eligible to vote in this election. Same day registration is also available during early voting from February 13th through February 29th.

If you have other questions or desire additional information call Jake Oakley, County Manager, at 336-593-2407 or any member of the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Andy Nickelston	336-871-4162
Vice Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall	336-994-1083
Commissioner Rick Morris	336-813-0206
Commissioner Jimmy Walker	336-983-5714
Commissioner Jamie Yontz	336-403-9418

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Stokes County

Will You

Support

1/4 Cent

Sales Tax

Referendum?

The General Assembly has recently decided to provide county boards of commissioners with the authority to conduct a one-quarter cent (1/4¢) county Sales & Use Tax Referendum. This may be utilized in order to provide a means to fund areas of safety in our schools (SRO Officers & building security) or a service oriented entity.

As a Public Service and information for the voters, the following Frequently Asked Questions are answered in a brief summary.

1. Question: Who put this issue on the ballot?

Answer: The NC General Assembly granted county boards of commissioners the authority to levy, subject to voter approval, an additional one-quarter cent (1/4¢) county sales and use tax. On November 25, 2019, the Board approved a resolution calling for a March 3, 2020 Advisory Referendum concerning the Levy of a One-Quarter Cent (1/4¢) County wide additional Sales & Use Tax. While the use may change, the Board resolved that monies collected would be utilized for Educational Safety Issues.

2. Question: Does the sales tax apply to unprepared food or gas?

Answer: NO. The local-option sales tax does not apply to unprepared foods (i.e. groceries) or gas purchases. There is no local sales tax on gas purchases.

3. Question: What is the question that will be placed on the ballot?

Answer: Whether the voters wish to authorize the County Board of Commissioners to levy an additional 1/4 of a penny sales tax, (one penny for each \$4.00 of taxable sales.)

4. Question: Is there a prescribed format for the question on the ballot?

Answer: Yes. Legislation specifies how the question must be presented on the ballot: Ballot Question - The form of the question to be presented on a ballot for special election concerning the levy of the tax authorized by this Article shall be:

Local Sales and Use Tax	
Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.	
<input type="radio"/>	For
<input type="radio"/>	Against

5. Question: When will the sales tax referendum be conducted?

Answer: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

6. Question: Are there restrictions on the use of the new sales tax revenues?

Answer: The sales tax is not restricted.

7. Question: Can a county stipulate uses of the monies on the ballot as a part of the referendum?

Answer: A county may not stipulate the use of the money on the ballot.

8. Question: How much will 1/4 cent sales tax raise?

Answer: The State's estimate for Stokes County is estimated between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million in additional revenue.

9. Question: How much would the 1/4% sales tax cost the individual?

Taxable Goods	Tax
\$100 purchase	25 cents
\$300 purchase	75 cents
\$500 purchase	\$1.25

10. Question: When is the earliest the sales tax will become effective if the Board of County Commissioners levies the sales tax via resolution (following a referendum) during March 2020?

Answer: The sales tax becomes effective on the first day of any calendar quarter so long as the county gives at least 60 days notice to the Secretary of Revenue. If the referendum is passed the Board of Commissioners would like to see this implemented with the start of FY 2020/21.

11. Question: If the sales tax passes does it mean property taxes will not increase?

Answer: The sales tax lessens the pressure on property tax, but it will be up to the Board of Commissioners to determine future property tax rates during annual budget discussions. The Tax Referendum does not do away with property taxes.