

Proposed: 1/4 Cent Sales Tax Supporting Law Enforcement Chillicothe

FAQ

WHAT IS A SALES TAX?

A sales tax is imposed on the sale of goods and services, levied at the point of sale and collected by the retailer, then passed on to the City. This tax is paid not only by residents of Chillicothe, but by visitors who make purchases within our city.

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT?

Revenue from this sales tax, along with existing general funding, will be utilized to acquire, and/or improve police facilities, acquire police equipment, maintain police services, and recruit, train, and retain police officers.

WHAT IMPACT DOES THIS HAVE ON RESIDENTS?

This tax will generate 25 cents for every \$100 spent by consumers, not just the citizens of Chillicothe. This 25 cent contribution from those making purchases in the City is projected to produce revenues of approximately \$420,103 for the police department budget.



WHEN WILL VOTERS DECIDE THIS ISSUE?

This 1/4 cent sales tax will be on the ballot for Consideration by Chillicothe voters on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

QUESTION

Shall the City of Chillicothe, Missouri, be authorized to increase its general sales tax by one-quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%), to be used to acquire and or improve police facilities, acquire police equipment, maintain police services and recruit, train and retain police officers.

YES

NO

WHY DOES THE CPD NEED THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING?

In order for us to serve the Community to the best of our abilities, we need access to the most effective training available, and most cost-efficient tools for completing the tasks before us. We have the right morale, leadership, and dedication in place, but we need to bring the equipment and training components into the 21st Century.

By establishing a purchase schedule for vehicles on a rotational basis, we ensure that police vehicles are continuously in proper functioning order, and are always ready to respond to the calls of the day. Each year, we would purchase two new, fully-equipped vehicles, thereby retiring the two oldest units, and keeping the fleet in the condition we need to fully serve our Community. The cost of this purchase schedule would be approximately \$100,000 annually. Officers need to be properly outfitted for the job by means of a set a rotation of purchases of new gear, armor, and vests every 5 years, as well as replacement of computer and radio equipment every ten years. The cost of this rotation would be approximately \$55,330 every year. Although the cost of this new equipment is high, we take note of two concepts: First, these are not extravagances; these items are the basic tools needed to perform policing in the 21st Century. Second, the amount invested in these tools are offset by not having the continual increased maintenance costs, which have challenged our budgets in recent years due to older equipment being used beyond its lifetime of service.



CPD TRAINING NEEDS

Due to the increased costs of training, the current training budget does not allow for us to keep up sufficiently with modern policing practices.

Insufficient training exposes the officer, department, City, and our Citizens to increased hazards in times of crisis.

We need a training budget of at least \$12,000, annually, in order to ensure that officers are fundamentally prepared for whatever scenario may arise. This would involve trainings for Staff from road patrol to the Chief of Police. Comprehensive training is one of the keys for being able to hire, and retain the best personnel available for our departmental service.



HOW DOES CHILlicothe'S CURRENT SALES TAX COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES?

Chillicothe's current and proposed sales tax rate is lower than any other full service City in our Northwest Missouri region. With the addition of 1/4 cent sales tax, the rate at 7.975%, would still be as lower than neighboring cities.

City of Chillicothe (current)	7.725%
City of Chillicothe (proposed)	7.975%
BASE SALES TAX BY CITY	
City of Cameron	8.225%
Town of Carrollton	8.745%
Hamilton	8.752%
City of Trenton	8.35%
Richmond	9.225%
Brookfield	8.475%
Marshall	8.225%
St. Joseph	8.7%
Kansas City	8.6%

WHY IS A BETTER FACILITY NEEDED?

The current police station, which was not built to be utilized as a police facility, is antiquated and does not meet the needs of a police department, creating numerous operational and personnel challenges that affect public, and Staff safety. There are several needs to consider such as a security system, door locks, a more efficient layout of a building, and security for our prisoners we hold, awaiting transport.

When it is taken into consideration that, roughly half of all sales taxes are collected from those living outside of the City limits, this revenue source provides the biggest return on investment for Chillicothe Citizens.



Addressing these issues now ensures Chillicothe remains proactive in our dedication to Public Safety. As our city has grown, the need for law enforcement support has grown as well, and will continue to do so. This will help alleviate the current challenges we face together, while building capacity for future growth, making the safety of our Citizens and police officers our top priority.

As with any public safety department, there will be unknown scenarios that require us to work together for comprehensive, and financially secure answers. By beginning the process of providing for those answers, whatever they may be, we will have the flexibility and capacity to evolve in measured response, as the needs arise.

