



City of Basehor Sales Tax Election FAQ

What is the ballot question registered voters will be deciding?

Shall the following be adopted?

Shall the City of Basehor, Kansas, be authorized to impose a one percent (1 %) City-wide retailers' sales tax (the "2023 Sales Tax"), the revenues derived therefrom shall be used for the purpose of financing the costs of the following and related expenditures: (a) for support of general City police operations, including officer attraction and retention, equipment acquisition and other purposes related thereto; (b) improvements to City parks, trails and other recreational facilities; and (c) paving and other infrastructure improvements, the collection of the 2023 Sales Tax to commence on October 1, 2023, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law, and to terminate ten years after its commencement; all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., and K.S.A. 25-431 et seq., as amended?

What type of election is it?

This is a special election with mail ballots. Eligible voters will receive a mail ballot from the Leavenworth County Clerk with instructions on how to vote.

When is the special election?

The special election is June 8, 2023.

When can Basehor voters expect to receive the mailed ballot?

The Leavenworth County Clerk's Office will mail the ballots to Basehor voters in mid-May. Voters must turn in the ballots by noon June 8 in order to be counted in the election.

What will the special sales tax of 1% be used to fund?

The special sales tax will be used to fund three priority areas of the City. The use of these funds would be heavily regulated and monitored by the State of Kansas, the County Clerk, and external auditors.

1. Police – in today's market, recruiting and retaining police officers is very challenging. Providing a compensation package that is competitive in the KC metropolitan area to help recruit quality officers and avoid losing officers to other agencies is important. Additionally, we need to ensure Basehor's police officers have access to modern equipment, training, and vehicles to perform their duties safely.
2. Parks – in every survey (2019 Citizen Satisfaction Survey and the 2021 Comprehensive Plan + Parks Master Plan) respondents say they want to see more parks, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City is proud to have recently opened Phase 1 of Tomahawk Park. This park

was constructed on land generously donated to the City. In order to continue to expand and improve/modernize our city-owned parks, funding is necessary.

3. Pavement (Streets) – the City has also heard from residents and business owners that maintaining and improving the City’s street network is a priority. The City recently completed a street inventory and assessment. In order to preserve the useful life of the quality pavement, additional investment is necessary.

How much sales tax would this generate for the City?

The sales tax estimates indicate the City would receive \$1.4 million annually over the 10 year period. Those dollars would be restricted for uses only related to Police, Parks, and Pavement (Streets).

Why can’t the City save money over time and pay for these improvements when the resources are available?

The City Council has worked hard to fund many of the improvements that are occurring right now, such as 155th Street Modernization, Metro Green Trail Improvement (connecting 155th Street to 158th and Parallel Road), City Hall, and the Civic Campus Park Improvements (splash pad, playground, event lawn, stormwater pond, and trail) from a combination of cash reserves, external grant dollars, and debt financing. It is important to note, all of these projects have been completed with no increase to the mill rate for Basehor property owners.

This proposed 1% sales tax will allow the City to ensure even more projects will be possible, including things like developing more parks and trails, ensuring roads can be maintained and preserved, and our police department is equipped with the people and items necessary to serve our community.

Why is the City proposing an additional sales tax of 1% instead of some other revenue source?

It was important to the City Council that qualified voters get the opportunity to determine if these priorities are in fact the priority areas for City expenditures. Additionally, individual shoppers have choices when it comes to spending their money. Everyone who shops in Basehor will pay this sales tax, including those who do not live here or pay property taxes here. As police, parks and trails, and streets are really community assets, a sales tax was determined to be the most equitable way to help fund them.

How does the City’s sales tax rate compare to other areas?

The City’s current sales tax rate is 8.5%, which is one of the lowest rates in the region. A 1% increase would bring that sales tax rate to 9.5%, making it lower than most areas, including the Legends (Kansas City, Kansas) and Shawnee, KS.

How much of the sales tax does the City receive?

The majority of the sales tax collected in the City goes directly to the State of Kansas. 6.5% of the current rate goes to the State of Kansas. 1% is a County sales tax. 1% is an existing City sales tax.

Can this additional 1% sales tax be used for some other purpose in the future?

In short, “no.” The sales tax is required to be used only for the categories that are identified in the ballot language. They are Police, Parks/Trails, Pavement (Streets).

What happens if the sales tax initiative fails? Will property taxes go up?

The City could do its best with the funding it currently has, but some projects would need to be delayed or not completed at all. Sales tax and property taxes are different. The City Council has expressed its intent that it does not desire to increase property taxes at this time.

Does the additional 1% sales tax last forever?

No, the City Council included a 10-year sunset, which means the City would stop collecting the additional 1% sales tax, unless it is renewed by a vote of qualified voters, in 10 years. This gives future City Councils and the voters an opportunity to decide if this sales tax should continue or be stopped.

What does a 1% increase in sales tax look like when items are purchased in the City?

If you go to a restaurant and spend \$30, the 1% sales tax would add \$0.30 to your total bill. If you go to the store and spend \$100, the 1% sales tax would add \$1.00 to your total bill.

Where can I read more about the ways this additional 1% sales tax could be used?

The best way to stay informed is looking at our website at www.cityofbasehor.org. City staff will be releasing information regarding the 1% sales tax every week.