



Sales Tax Facts



A Penny for Progress

Thanks to an overwhelmingly favorable community vote a decade ago, a one-cent Special Use Sales Tax has been in place in Independence since October 2012 to support major community improvement projects. Among others, these projects have included:

- Extensive improvements at **Riverside Park** and **Ralph Mitchell Zoo** (carousel, miniature train, fountain, tennis courts, assistance with stadium renovation, enhancements to animal enclosures and exhibits);
- **Major street improvements**, including the West Main, 10th & Chestnut, Penn & Chestnut and Peter Pan Road projects;
- Mandated ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) projects for ramp and sidewalk accessibility throughout the community;
- Improvements at **Memorial Hall**; assistance with the **Independence Dog Park** development; and installation of an **emergency alert system** for citizens;
- Necessary Phase 1 work at 1916 City Hall facility to remediate issues and secure the building;
- Stabilizing property taxes and support for debt repayment.

The existing penny sales tax will expire in October 2022, but there is still much important work left to do to carry us into the future and maintain our status as an exceptional rural community in which to live, work and raise a family. To that end, the Independence City Commission is seeking a citizen vote on a renewal of a one-cent sales tax to run from October 2022-October 2032 to fund the following priorities:

- Additional City facility improvements, including **enhancements at Riverside Park & Ralph Mitchell Zoo**;
- More **improvements to streets and sidewalks**;
- More work to bring City properties into ADA compliance;
- Property tax stabilization;
- Debt repayment for bonds related to previous and future improvement projects.

Key Things to Know About the Sales Tax Vote

- If the one-cent sales tax is passed, the **current sales tax rate (9.5%) will not change**. This would be a renewal of the rate we are currently paying.
- Unlike property tax, the **responsibility of paying sales tax is shared** with visitors, tourists and those passing through our community. Because our community continues to evolve as a popular regional destination for shopping, dining and recreation, our base of sales tax payers is significantly broader than just our local residents.
- **If the sales tax is NOT renewed, property tax increases will be necessary** to cover the City's obligations for mill levy support and financing of debt related to past and future community improvement projects.
- For every \$1,000 in discretionary spending, a 1¢ sales tax amounts to \$10. Again, **this is the same amount of sales tax that we have paid since 2012**.
- Through the recent community strategic planning process, **citizens have indicated their desire for many quality-of-life improvements in the community** - such as beautification and recreation facilities - which would be priorities funded with a continued special use sales tax.

Early Voting Begins October 14 | General Election November 3