Questions & Answers

Proposition A Ballot Question – August 2, 2016 Election

"Shall the CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, discontinue applying and collecting the local sales tax on the titling of motor vehicles, trailers, boats, and outboard motors that were purchased from a source other than a licensed Missouri dealer?

Approval of this measure will result in a reduction of local revenue to provide for vital services for the CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, and it will place Missouri dealers of motor vehicles, outboard motors, boats, and trailers at a competitive disadvantage to non-Missouri dealers of motor vehicles, outboard motors, boats, and trailers."

What is Proposition A?

It focuses on whether voters want the City of Joplin to continue to collect a local sales tax on motor vehicles and other licensed property (trailers, boats, motorcycles, outboard motors) when purchased from other than licensed Missouri dealers, including dealers outside of the state of Missouri.

What is the sales tax about?

A Missouri Supreme Court Case (Street vs. the Director of Revenue) in 2012, followed by subsequent state legislation (HB 184/SB 182/HB 2140) in 2013 and 2016, requires that cities without a use tax (such as Joplin) must receive voter approval by November 2018 to continue sales tax collections on out-of-state purchases of motor vehicles, trailers, boats and outboard motors and purchases from non-Missouri licensed dealers.

Is this a new tax?

No. The City of Joplin currently collects this sales tax and has been collecting it for many years. The question is on the ballot only as a result of the Missouri Supreme Court decision and the state legislation that followed. If the question is not placed on the ballot by November 2018, the tax would cease to be collected beginning March 1, 2019.

If the tax is discontinued by the voters on August 2, 2016, the tax would cease to be collected beginning January 1, 2017.

How does the tax affect me?

The tax only applies to you if you purchase a motor vehicle, trailer, boat or outboard motor from out-of state or from other than a licensed Missouri dealer. Similar purchases from licensed Missouri dealers made in-state are subject to the local sales tax regardless of the vote on this ballot question.

What is the rate of the tax?

Joplin's sales tax rate is 2.625%.

Why is it important for Joplin to continue collecting this tax?

The existence of the tax creates a level playing field for Joplin and other Missouri dealerships. If the existing tax were to end, Missouri dealerships would be at a competitive disadvantage with out-of-state dealerships which would no longer be required to collect the tax. This encourages residents to make purchases from out-of-state businesses which do not create local jobs or reinvest in our community.

How much money will the City of Joplin lose if this is not collected?

The City would lose approximately $430,000 to $500,000 annually if the sales tax is not collected on out-of-state purchases of titled property. These dollars currently provide funding for city services such as street repair, police and fire protection, and parks services.

Are other cities like Joplin affected?

Yes. A number of cities across the state have voted on the issue since 2013 and will continue to hold elections.

Election information

What is the date of the City of Joplin's election when this issue is placed on the ballot?

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Can I vote absentee?

Yes. Absentee votes will be accepted until August 1, 2016. Contact your County Clerk at the numbers listed below to obtain an absentee ballot.

Jasper County Clerk: 417-625-4307 *Newton County Clerk at 417-659-2910*

How does the ballot question read?

The question is listed on the front page of this brochure.

What does a "YES" or "NO" vote mean?
A "YES" vote means local sales taxes will only be collected on eligible in-state purchases of titled property from licensed Missouri dealers. If "YES" is the majority of vote, then local sales tax collections on eligible out-of-state purchases and from non-Missouri licensed dealers will end and revenues the City currently receives will be lost.

A "NO" vote means the existing tax will continue, and no new tax will be implemented.

What does it take to pass?

A simple majority of the voters will decide this issue.

Other Questions/Speaker Requests

Who can I contact for more information about the continuation of this Sales Tax on Out-Of-State Vehicles?

If you have other questions about the continuation of this sales tax or would like to arrange for a speaker to present information to your group, please contact Lynn Onstot, Public Information Officer at 417-624-0820, ext. 204.

Paid for by:

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