



PROPOSITION PUBLIC SAFETY THE PUBLIC SAFETY PENNY



Provided for informational purposes only



On Tuesday, August 6th, Festus voters will be asked to consider establishing the Public Safety Penny - a 1 cent sales tax dedicated for Police, Fire and Dispatch.

The following are answers to anticipated questions about the sales tax, which hopefully will help you become informed about this important ballot issue.

Question: What is the sales tax about?

Since 2014, the cost of providing Police, Fire and Dispatch service to residents has risen more than \$500,000. Additional economic pressure has come since 2017 when Public Safety Tax initiatives were successfully approved by voters in Franklin, Jefferson, St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve counties and municipalities like Crystal City, Desoto and Hillsboro.

If approved by City voters, the Public Safety Penny will fund the following;

- Full Time Fire Chief
- Three Additional Full Time Firefighters
- Improve Accident Response
- Officer Retention with Competitive Salaries
- Increase School Resource Officer Training
- Crime Prevention and Reduction
- Dispatch & Radio Upgrades for Officer Safety

The Public Safety Penny will close a substantial budget deficit for capital equipment purchases such as vehicles, apparatus and radio equipment.



FULL TIME FIRE CHIEF

3 FULL TIME
FIREFIGHTERS

OFFICER RETENTION

INCREASE TRAINING

DISPATCH UPGRADES

Question: Is this a new tax? Yes.

Question: How much will the tax raise?

It is estimated that the Public Safety Penny will raise \$2,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2020.

Question: When is the new tax paid?

When someone makes a retail purchase within the City of Festus, an additional 1 cent will be added to the sales tax portion of the purchase. For example, on a \$100 purchase, an additional \$1 would be charged.

Question: When would the tax go into effect?

January 1st, 2020.

Question: What are the other Public Safety Taxes?

- Crystal City 1/2 cent sales tax
- Desoto 1 cent sales tax
- Hillsboro 1/2 cent sales tax
- Franklin County 1/2 cent sales tax
- St. Louis County 1/2 cent sales tax
- Jefferson County 35 cent property tax
- Ste. Genevieve 27 cent property tax

Question: Why can't the City use revenue from other sources for this?

The City is not allowed by state statute to use money from parks, utility or transportation funds for Police, Fire and Dispatch. All of the funds must come from general revenue or the 21 cent property tax (dedicated to just Fire). This year, Police, Fire and Dispatch represent more than 60% of the general fund and necessary capital upgrades spent more than \$443,000 into general fund balances.

COMBINED SALES TAX RATES NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES	
CITY	GENERAL SALES TAX RATE
Festus (current)	8.350%
Pevely	8.350%
Arnold	8.350%
Herculaneum	8.850%
Byrnes Mill	8.850%
Crystal City	9.100%
Hillsboro	9.225%
Festus (proposed)	9.350%
DeSoto	9.850%

Information provided and paid for by the City of Festus

