

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REFERENDUM

**1. Will the PUBLIC SAFETY TAX affect my real estate taxes?**

No. The PUBLIC SAFETY TAX is solely on purchases made within White County. Your real estate taxes are unaffected by this.

**2. What is the wording of the PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX REFERENDUM on the ballot?**

“TO PAY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TAX PURPOSES, SHALL WHITE COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO IMPOSE AN INCREASE ON ITS SHARE OF LOCAL SALES TAXES BY 0.5%?”

“THIS WOULD MEAN THAT A CONSUMER WOULD PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$.50 IN SALES TAX FOR EVERY \$100 OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY BOUGHT AT RETAIL.”

YES

NO

**3. What can this money be used for?**

The money, by statute, may only be used for crime prevention, detention, police, medical ambulance, firefighting, or other emergency services. The White County board has publicly stated this money will be used to help the White County Ambulance Service. A resolution will be prepared and passed by the White County Board during their monthly board meeting to establish where funds will be designated.

**4. Why would we vote for this?**

The White County Ambulance has always been a volunteer service and has always operated solely from the income generated from ambulance runs. There are no Real estate taxes designated to this service. If this Public Safety Tax does not pass, White County will lose their Ambulance Service. This tax will allow White County to replace ambulances with newer models. The ambulances in service now have close to 300,000 miles on them. It will also allow us to bring more staff at competitive salaries and bring us back to an ALS service. Without this tax, White County will not only be without a hospital, but we will also be without Emergency Medical Services.

**5. Can these sales tax funds be used for anything but PUBLIC SAFETY?**

No. By Illinois Statute, it is not possible to use the money for any other purposes.

**6. Does the ½ of 1% sales tax apply to everything I buy?**

No. The law is that groceries, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cars, boats, farm equipment, and motorcycle purchases are exempt. Services such as beauty parlors and labor to fix a car are also exempt.

**7. Will I be paying more sales tax in White County than in other counties?**

No. Most places you shop, visit, or vacation have a higher sales tax.

**8. When is the referendum vote on this issue?**

Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

**9. What will the sales tax cost be in dollars and cents?**

The White County buyer that spends \$100 every week of the year in taxable items or 50 cents in sales tax weekly, would contribute \$26 annually.

## HOW WOULD THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX AFFECT YOU?



A cup of Coffee and doughnut costs \$1.84 + Public Safety Tax \$0.01 = \$1.85



Items from a department store cost \$57.43 + Public Safety Tax \$0.29 = \$57.72



Buy a new farm tractor for \$180,000.00 + Public Safety Tax \$0.00 = \$180,000.00



Groceries (edible items) costs \$92.00 + Public Safety Tax \$0.00 = \$92.00



Out of County resident purchases gas \$45.00 + Public Safety Tax \$0.23 = \$45.23



Purchase of new car costs \$22,725.00 + Public Safety Tax \$0.00 = \$22,725.00



Prescription and Non-prescription medication costs \$65.00 + Public Safety Tax \$0.00 = \$65.00



Dinner for a family of four costs \$36.38 + Public Safety Tax \$0.18= \$36.56