



CHRISTIAN COUNTY



Public Safety Tax



Question to Christian County Voters

- On March 17, 2020 the voters of Christian County will be asked to approve a public safety tax at a rate of \$1.00 per \$100.00.
- Example on the ballot:
 - To pay for public safety purposes, shall Christian County be authorized to impose an increase on its share of local sales taxes by 1.00%? This would mean that a consumer would pay an additional \$1.00 in sales tax for every \$100.00 of tangible personal property bought at retail.



Are there kinds of sales that are not subject to this tax and will not generate additional revenue?

- Yes, the county public safety tax does not apply to the sale of tangible personal property that is titled or registered with an agency of this state (e.g., cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, trailers, snowmobiles, aircraft), and
- Food for human consumption that is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold (other than alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and food which has been prepared for immediate consumption) and prescription and non-prescription medicines, drugs, medical appliances and insulin, urine testing materials, syringes, and needles used by diabetics.



Public Safety Tax in Christian County

- Question to impose a public safety tax at the rate of 1.00% passed by the voters of the county during the March 17, 2020 election.
- Example

Walgreens purchase of a card in Taylorville	\$4.29
Sales Tax 9.0% is equal to \$0.39	\$0.39
Additional 1.00% public safety tax	\$0.04
Total of purchase of card with public safety tax	\$4.72



General Merchandise Sales Taxes Christian County

• Assumption	8.25%	Oconee	7.25%
• Bulpitt	7.25%	Owaneco	7.25%
• Edinburg	7.25%	Palmer	7.25%
• Jeiseyville	7.25%	Pana	7.25%
• Kincaid	7.25%	Pana-downtown	8.25%
• Langleyville	7.25%	Stonington	7.25%
• Millersville	7.25%	Taylorville	9.00%
• Morrisonville	7.25%	Tovey	7.25%
• Mount Auburn	7.25%	Willey's	7.25%



Estimated Revenue Generated

- \$2.33 million estimated in local sales tax under the new tax rate on share of local sales tax in FY2019 at 1.00%



Where public safety tax monies can be utilized

*Sheriff's Department (911/dispatch, jail, patrol deputies, investigations, command staff, secure evidence storage)

*Coroner (death investigations/inquests, coroner's jury, secure body/records storage)

*Probation Department (adult and juvenile, diversion, youth detention services)

*State's Attorney's Office (felony, misdemeanor, juvenile, DUI, victim services)

*EMA/Homeland Security (natural disasters, emergency response)



Where public safety tax monies can be utilized

- Crime Prevention and Community Services
- Patrol, Community Policing
- Incarceration (adult) and youth detention
- Probation services
- Prosecution
- Victim response
- EMS/ILEAS/DHS and other emergency services



Why is a new Jail needed?

- An obsolete facility that does not meet the needs of the staff or public
- Limited visibility of inmates for jail/medical staff to adequately protect themselves
- Jail staff exposed to physical attack/exposure to attack by bodily fluids from prisoners
- Video court facility too close to existing cell blocks
- No separation of inmates by need: pre- vs. post conviction; mentally ill; special needs/suicidal; gender segregation; co-defendant separation
- Steel jail cells with bars and antiquated locks, make-shift sleeping and dining
- Limited space for the increasing number of inmates
- Condition of the Christian County Jail has been considered a “grandfathered” status for years. As we have learned from the Courthouse elevator, this status will be revoked if partial improvements are made, increasing expenses.
- Above conditions increase likelihood of on-the-job injury and potential disability for employees





Benefits to the County



- Provides important public safety standards which every Christian County citizen deserves
- Benefits are for Christian County while economic impact is shared by any consumer in Christian County
- Provides safety to the employees of the Sheriff's Office
- Provides up-to-date standards for court purposes
- Reduces likelihood of civil liability



Summary

- With the loss of revenue the County has experienced over the last several years from annexations, business closures, etc., the County has cut spending as much as possible. There are times when you can no longer cut and problems need to be addressed. The need for a larger, more up-to-date jail cannot be expressed enough. Our current jail was built in 1975 and was designed for a capacity of 18-20 inmates. The jail can hold up to 55 inmates. The jail has this capacity because single cells are now double-bunked and because the gymnasium was converted to a 14-bed dormitory. There is no more available space for further expansion in the current facility. With the current drug-related arrests increasing, we average in the 60's and many times have an inmate population in the 70's. Every aspect of the current facility is worn out: deteriorating plumbing, leaking roof and aging generator. The kitchen design is the same as when it was built. There is no room to expand and it's a daily issue trying to find the space to prepare the meals. The County spends thousands of dollars every year trying to keep the current facility operational. The employee's working environment is both stressful and dangerous with the combined factors of the current condition of the facility and the inmate population. Both of these factors also create a huge liability to the County. The safety of the public is also a major concern. It is our duty to keep offenders off the streets. With our current capacity, it is extremely difficult to house all the inmates taken in custody. This 1% share of local sales tax would generate funding to construct a new facility and provide for the best interests of the citizens of Christian County in the future.

