



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

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St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Propose Creation of Sales Tax Advisory Committee if Voters Approve Referendum

ST. AUGUSTINE, Florida, September 20, 2022 – During the regular commission meeting on Sept. 20, 2022, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners directed County staff to provide the Board with recommendations for the potential creation of a Sales Tax Advisory Committee. Staff will provide the Board of County Commissioners with a schedule and appointment process for the citizen-led committee.

The committee will only be established if St. Johns County voters approve the one-penny sales tax referendum **on Nov. 8, 2022**.

“It’s an opportunity for all the citizens to weigh in through the advisory committee if the referendum passes,” said Chairman Henry Dean, Commissioner of District 5. “It’s important to hear the community’s feedback on how they would like to spend the funds.”

On Feb. 15, 2022, the Board directed the County Attorney to prepare a proposed one percent local government infrastructure surtax ordinance for a first reading on March 1, 2022, and second reading for adoption on March 15, 2022. During the March 15 regular commission meeting, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners voted 4 to 1 to send to referendum a proposed one-penny sales tax ordinance for voter approval.

“It’s always important to gather community input, especially on an item as important as this. We want to ensure that if this passes in November, every community in St. Johns County sees the benefit and the advisory committee will help us do that,” said Vice-chairman Christian Whitehurst, Commissioner of District 1.

Should more than 50% of voters approve the proposed ordinance, the sales tax increase will begin for ten years **on Jan. 1, 2023**. The proposed increase would take St. Johns County’s sales tax from 6.5% to 7.5% of the sale of goods and services. For taxable personal property, the additional one-penny sales tax would only be collected on the first \$5,000. The additional sales tax would not apply to certain groceries, prescription drugs, medical products and supplies, or other goods and services exempt from taxation.

For more information on the proposed surtax increase, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

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