



KEEP GREENE COUNTY

safe, clean and healthy



Introduction

County services are not possible without the sacrifices taxpayers make to ensure the well-being of our community.

2017 Ballot Initiative

1/2-percent General Revenue Sales Tax

Voters will be presented with a half-percent County sales tax on the **Nov. 7 ballot**.

What it means at the register

For every **\$100 spent** on goods within Greene County, taxpayers will pay an **extra 50 cents** (with the exception of domestic utilities).

Tax Oversight

The County Commission will create a tax oversight board to **review revenues and expenditures**, as well as make recommendations on **lowering the General Revenue Property Tax levy** based on performance to plan.



“It is the unanimous opinion of this task force that the County needs more revenue and that level of revenue should be equivalent of a ½ cent sales tax.”

—FINANCIAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE, JANUARY 2016



**Addressing the
County's Needs**

The County provides services that benefit all citizens, including those who reside in municipalities.

Tax collection allows us to:

- Maintain the criminal justice system, which includes law enforcement, courts, prosecution and medical examiner services
- Manage elections for all political subdivisions within Greene County
- Assess valuation of personal property such as vehicles and homes

What is
the Need?

The City-County Planning Task Force identified three main threats to sustainability of the County's core services:

Overburdened Criminal Justice System

The jail's growing population combined with exceeding expenses to operate it creates an **unsustainable financial burden** to the County.

Imminent Environmental Compliance Mandates

The region's recent loss of stormwater funding combined with increasing environmental regulatory standards and costs will soon make it **difficult to comply with federal and state regulations.**

County Financial Stability To Maintain Services

Due to budget constraints, general County support services have shrunk, and we face **deteriorating facilities and needed equipment replacement.**

GOAL

REDUCE LONG-TERM COSTS OF JAIL OPERATIONS

In addition to on-campus jail operations, we spend more than \$2 million per year to house inmates in other county jail facilities. That cost is expected to **increase by more than \$740,000 per year**. The ballot initiative addresses this issue the following ways:

1

A jail expansion would increase jail capacity allow for room to grow should population increase at expected rates.

2

Increased support to Treatment Court would expedite the process by which offenders are referred to treatment court.

3

Funding community mental health initiatives would allow for intervention before or at first interaction with law enforcement.

GOAL

SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Adequate facilities and programs are needed to keep the public safe and the criminal justice system operating with optimal efficiency. A new tax would offer the flexibility to accomplish a variety of solutions.

1

Replacing deteriorating Juvenile Office facilities would support intervention approach to juvenile justice.

2

Funding joint law enforcement initiatives between the Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney and City police to aid in case management.

3

Increased space for evidence storage would safeguard the integrity of court cases.

4

Ensuring funds for court-mandated budget increases & renovations to Judicial Facility demonstrates fiscal responsibility.

5

Upgrades to trunked radio system would continue emergency communication partnership with City of Springfield

GOAL

MAINTAIN QUALITY SERVICES

The last time voters approved a County General Revenue Sales Tax was in 1984. The service demand upon County offices has long **outgrown that revenue stream**, resulting in both episodic and permanent reduction in services. Increased general revenue sales tax revenue would allow us to increase and maintain services our citizens say they want.

1

Environmental funding ensures clean drinking water, stormwater management.

2

Proper administration, transparency and reporting of tax proceeds would maintain trust of taxpayers.

3

Reinstating animal control and providing expanded community animal shelter would bring back much-needed services to citizens.

4

Maintaining the County campus would provide a safe and clean environment for citizens to access services.

5

Making funding available to area municipalities would help them maintain or enhance their services citizens.



Cost to Taxpayers

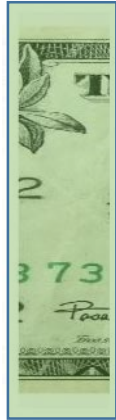
2¢

Proper tax administration

25¢

Expanded facilities

(Jail, evidence storage, courtrooms and juvenile detention)



6¢

Environmental funding

56¢

Criminal justice system efficiencies

(Treatment courts, jail operations, increased support to Prosecuting Attorney)

11¢

Community projects and services

(Mental health programs, animal control, joint law enforcement initiatives and financial assistance to area municipalities)



**General
Revenue Fund**

The County's current tax rate is 1.25%, one of the lowest amongst neighboring counties.

If approved, a new tax would increase Greene County's rate to 1.75%, bringing us to the level of nearby Christian and Stone counties.

Greene County's existing General Revenue Sales Tax is split with the Road & Bridge Fund.

We maintain 1,284 miles of road, 217 bridges and 655 culverts.
We also provide \$1.7 million to pave roads in the City of Springfield
and more than \$200,000 in other municipalities.

70% of the remaining General Revenue funds law enforcement, courts and corrections.

Approx. 62.5% of the ¼-cent Law Enforcement Sales Tax I is distributed to area municipalities. The County's share of this tax is not sufficient to fund the criminal justice system as promised to voters.

The County expects more than \$3 million in budget cuts in 2018.

These cuts are partly due to:

- anticipated general election costs
- increased jail expenses
- increased pension costs
- and the complete use of the remaining park tax funds



**History of
Financial
Accountability**

1

The County has won numerous transparency awards from Harvard University, Missouri Association of Counties and National Association of Counties.



2

Moody upgraded the County's bond rating, citing our open-book management as an important part of their decision.

3

**Independent auditors
have issued the County
clean opinions for several
consecutive years**



4

Stakeholders have access to monthly revenue and expenditure reports on our website

5

Financial Advisory Task Force
found the County's excellent
stewardship worthy of
taxpayers' trust



“It is the opinion of this task force that Greene County is deserving of the tax payers’ investment in the proposed expanded services for its citizens.”

—FINANCIAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE, JANUARY 2016



COUNTY OF
GREENE

greenecountymo.gov