

Stephens County Sales Tax Proposal Fact Sheet

What is the Vote About?

Residents of the unincorporated areas of Stephens County will vote to either approve or decline a proposed increase in the local sales tax. The purpose of the increase is to provide relief to property owners by lowering property taxes for all of Stephens County.

Current Situation

- **Current Sales Tax:** 6.25%
- **Primary Source of County Revenue:** Property taxes

Proposed Change

- **Proposed Sales Tax:** 8.25%
- **Additional Revenue Generated:** Estimated at \$275,000 annually
- **Purpose:** The additional revenue will be statutorily required to reduce property taxes in the unincorporated areas of Stephens County.

What Does this Mean for You?

- **If Approved:**
 - Sales tax will increase from 6.25% to 8.25%.
 - The additional \$275,000 generated annually will be used to lower property taxes for all property owners in Stephens County.
 - This could provide long-term relief for property owners by shifting part of the county's revenue source away from property taxes and towards sales tax.
- **If Declined:**
 - Sales tax will remain at 6.25%.
 - The county will continue to rely heavily on property taxes as the primary source of revenue.
 - Property taxes may not see the same level of reduction, as no additional funds will be generated to offset them.

Who Can Vote?

- Only voters in the unincorporated areas of Stephens County are eligible to vote.
- However, **all residents of Stephens County** will benefit from the lower property taxes if the sales tax is approved.

Ballot Options

You will vote **FOR** or **AGAINST** the proposed sales tax increase.

- **FOR:** Approves the increase of the sales tax to 8.25% and directs the new funds towards reducing property taxes.
- **AGAINST:** Keeps the sales tax at 6.25%, maintaining the current reliance on property taxes for county revenue.

Key Points to Consider

- A "For" vote can help alleviate the burden on property owners by providing a new source of revenue through sales tax.
- A "Against" vote keeps the tax structure unchanged, with property taxes continuing as the main revenue stream for the county.

Your vote will shape the future revenue structure of Stephens County. Choose wisely!