

SPLOST vote set for March 21

Fayette County voters will vote March 21 on a one-cent SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax), the proceeds of which will be invested in capital projects throughout the county. Here in the City of Fayetteville, the city's portion of SPLOST funds, estimated at about \$25 million over six years, will be designated toward a dozen projects, which are outlined below.

**2017 SPLOST Budget Summary
By Category**

Project #	Project Type	Project Description	Estimated SPLOST Funding
Stormwater/Wastewater			
1	Facilities	Upgrades to water plant and wastewater plant.	\$8,000,000
2	Debt Retirement	Repayment of loan for stormwater culvert installation.	\$1,500,000
Transportation			
3	Resurfacing	Milling, patching, leveling, and resurfacing of approximately 21+ miles of roadway.	\$4,550,872
4	Roundabout	Construction of roundabout to add capacity, maintain level of service and ensure safety.	\$1,200,000
5	Bridge Crossing	Construction project to connect the Fayette Piedmont Hospital/ West Fayetteville Area to the existing path system.	\$600,000
6	Downtown Master Plan	Preliminary engineering for road and path network.	\$500,000
7	Multi-Use Path Master Plan	Design master plan for expansion of the multi-use path systems.	\$75,000
8	Median Landscaping	Engineering and design of landscaped medians on Highway 85.	\$75,000
Public Safety			
9	Facilities	Design and construction of a new fire station.	\$1,000,000
10	Vehicles	Public safety vehicle replacements for the fire and police department.	\$3,885,000
11	Equipment and Technology	New and upgraded equipment for the police department.	\$224,000
Parks and Recreation			
12	Land Acquisition	Purchase of land, greenspace, equipment, and maintenance	\$3,400,000
Estimated Total Costs			\$25,009,872

While General Fund monies can also be used to pay for these same projects, an advantage to using SPLOST funding is that the cost is shared with everyone who makes taxable purchases in the county whether they live here or not. So even out-of-county guests who make purchases in Fayette County are helping fund the capital resources they also use by being here.

Currently, the county-wide sales tax in Fayette is six percent, which is lower than all but seven other Georgia counties. Four cents of each sales tax dollar goes directly to the State of Georgia, one penny goes to the Fayette County School System in the form of an E-SPLOST, or an Education SPLOST, and the remaining penny is split among the county and municipal governments based on a population-percentage formula by way of a LOST (local option sales tax).

Just like the LOST, Fayette County's SPLOST funds will be distributed based on a population-percentage formula, in this case about 15 percent of the county-wide total, which is estimated to be about \$141 million. The county-wide sales tax would rise from six percent to seven, which is the

same percentage collected in neighboring Coweta, Spalding, Pike, Henry, DeKalb and Fulton counties. Clayton County's sales tax is eight percent.

"I can't tell residents how to vote on march 21, but can I point out advantages of funding these infrastructure projects with a SPLOST instead of property tax proceeds," said Fayetteville City Manager Ray Gibson. "A citizen advisory committee was instrumental in identifying and prioritizing the city's greatest infrastructure needs in the face of almost certain future growth, and a SPLOST will fund those without having to raise property taxes."

Visit www.fayetteville-ga.gov for up-to-date SPLOST information.



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