

Prop P Fact Sheet & Info

November 4, 2014 Ballot Language

Shall the municipality of Rolla, Missouri impose a sales tax of one-quarter of one percent, for eight years, then reduced to three-sixteenths of one percent beginning April 1, 2023 **for the purpose of providing funding for local parks?**

The City intends to use this sales tax **solely for local parks** in order to maintain, improve and manage parks, trails, playgrounds, parking lots, bathrooms, cemetery and natural lands for recreational purposes. **These funds are prohibited for support of the Centre.**

What is it?

- It is a **Parks-only**, ¼ -of-one-percent sales tax that would be added to purchases made in Rolla (25 cents for every \$100).
- Funding would be in place to maintain and improve the traditional park system and cemetery.
- **100% of the money from this tax by law must be used for the parks and cemetery.**
- Sales tax will automatically decrease after 8 years of capital improvements unless re-authorized by Rolla voters.

Why?

- Funding for Parks has declined by \$200,000 over the past 2 years and little to no capital investment has been made in to playgrounds, parking lots or bathrooms over the last 10 years.
- According to the Direction Finder Citizen Attitude Survey conducted in 2013, satisfaction with parks and recreation programs, facilities, and maintenance decreased for the first time since 2002.
- **A parks only sales tax** will provide savings to the City's General Fund which largely supports all public safety services.
- Over 160 Missouri communities have a permanent parks sales tax. This includes cities such as St. James, Waynesville, Owensville, Licking, Sullivan, Jefferson City, Columbia & Springfield.
- Sales Tax Comparison as of Jan. 1, 2014

○ Sullivan	8.48%	○ St. Robert	8.725%
○ Washington	8.350 – 9.100%	○ Cuba	8.475%
○ Lebanon	8.23%	○ Owensville	8.35%
○ Waynesville	8.23%	○ Belle	7.891%
○ Osage Beach	8.225 – 8.725%	○ Vienna	7.891%
○ Columbia	7.975 – 8.975%	○ Licking	7.725%
○ Jefferson City	7.725 – 8.725%	○ St. James	7.85%

Rolla 7.35% (no Park Sales Tax) 7.60% if approved.

- Parks provide a positive impact on the health and wellness of every person.
- The sales tax shifts a significant percentage of the cost to maintain and upgrade the City's park system **from residents to non-residents** who shop in Rolla.
- Proposed improvements would reach every demographic in Rolla.