

VOTE YES FOR SALES TAX INCREASE!!!!

Being a Certified Public Accountant, I am a very conservative person. I have been accused of being too conservative for which I replied "there is no such thing." I also know the difference between a WANT and a NEED. I tried to explain that difference to my three teenage daughters when they were growing up. With that said, why am I wanting an increase in the sales tax rate from 9.25% to 9.75 %? I don't want it but I believe an increase in sales tax is NEEDED rather than an increase in property taxes. More Fayette County residents pay sales tax than property taxes.

The decision by the County Commission to put the sales tax increase on the November ballot was brought about because of the actions taken by the Towns of Rossville, Somerville, and Oakland to join Piperton, who is already at 9.75%, and increase their local rate to 9.75%. By the Commission voting to put the question on the November ballot for a county wide increase to 9.75%, it stopped the cities from moving forward.

A substantial percentage of the voters in Fayette County live outside of any city limit. If this county wide increase does not pass, voters outside of the cities will be charged the 9.75% on purchases made in the cities. The cities will keep all of the .50% for their own use. The County will have to raise property taxes by larger amounts and more often to pay for county wide services.

Under current Tennessee law, the local portion of the current 9.25% is split equally between local government and the public school system. The current estimate of the sales tax to be generated by this increase is a little under \$2,000,000. Under Dr. Marlon King's leadership, the Fayette County Public School System has made tremendous improvements in both academics and finances. For the past three years, no additional funding has been requested from the County Commission. However, as enrollment increases more tax dollars will be needed. Also, with increased enrollment comes state mandated increased local funding. There is only one other local funding source besides sales tax and that is property taxes.

By voting for the sales tax increase, not only will you be voting for improved emergency medical services, but also for continued improvements in the public school system and less property taxes. Please VOTE YES!!!

Bob Doll
Taxpayer