

Know the Facts on the Tax



10 Key Facts About the Penny Sales Tax

- 1.** Historically, Seminole County voters have supported the Penny Tax. In 1991, 60% of Seminole County voters approved it, and in 2001, 72% of the voters approved it.
- 2.** Seminole County has a demonstrated track record with the Penny Tax. Since 1991, the penny has provided funding for 860 capital projects.
- 3.** Unlike Orange, Lake, Volusia and Osceola Counties, Seminole County does not currently impose an additional "local option" sales tax, and currently has the lowest sales tax rate in the five-county region. To provide economic relief, the Board of County Commissioners allowed the Penny Tax to sunset in 2012 without seeking re-authorization. Since then, county reserves from the Penny Tax have decreased to an amount insufficient to fund anticipated infrastructure needs.
- 4.** A sales tax is paid by visitors and residents alike. Unlike a property tax, visitors to Seminole County pay approximately 20% of the sales tax revenue.
- 5.** One penny raises about as much revenue as 2.6 mills of property tax. The Penny Tax will raise \$63 million annually versus \$24 million annually raised by one mill of property tax.
- 6.** Funds cannot be used to fund SunRail or Lynx operations. Under current law, revenue from the Penny Tax may only be used for capital projects – this means improving infrastructure – not operations.
- 7.** If it passes, the school millage rate will be reduced. In March, the School Board voted to reduce the Seminole County Public School millage rate levy if the sales tax referendum passes in May.
- 8.** Revenue will be split among Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS), the county and the seven cities. SCPS will receive 25 percent of funds generated for its infrastructure needs; the county and its seven cities will split the remainder.
- 9.** Nearly every school in the county will be touched by some type of infrastructure improvement as a result of the revenue generated.
- 10.** Without the Penny Tax, elected officials will have to consider other options during the budget process to address expected shortfalls in revenues to fund infrastructure improvements and capital maintenance, including service reductions and/or other revenue sources.

VOTE MAY 20 DURING THE SPECIAL ELECTION

To request an absentee ballot, please visit www.voteseminole.org/absentee.php

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/onecent



SeminoleCounty



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