

On August 6, St. Joseph voters will be asked to renew our local use tax.

Facts to consider...

- This is a renewal of a tax that was originally passed in 2015, and includes both traditional use tax and internet sales tax.
- There is a ten-year sunset on this tax and will require voter approval for future renewals.
- The current tax rates you pay will NOT increase.
- A local use tax is a method of making up for sales tax lost when purchases are made out-of-state and brought back to Missouri for use.
- The traditional use tax that has been collected since 2015 has provided funding for asphalt overlay for approximately 424 lane miles (or 161 miles).
- Annually, \$4 million dollars will be allocated to ongoing maintenance on both asphalt and concrete streets, provided the tax generates \$4 million dollars every year.
- The internet sales tax portion of the use tax will continue to support the functions that have historically been supported by sales taxes generated in St. Joseph. These functions do not only include general sales tax functions, but also include the parks tax, the public safety and police taxes, and the capital improvements program.
- You will never pay both a sales tax and a use tax on the same item. You pay one or the other, but never both.
- A use tax supports local business. It ensures that purchases from online vendors located outside the state are subject to the same local tax rates as those purchases made from St. Joseph vendors.
- While the use tax affects purchases made from out-of-state retailers, local purchases from Missouri retailers are not affected by the use tax.
- This does NOT add tax to any retail purchase you make out-of-state if you paid their tax at the point of purchase.