

Local Option Sales Tax on November Ballot for City Residents

On November 2, 2021 the Solon City Council will ask residents of Solon to consider a Public Measure to revise the language to the current Local Option Sales Tax revenue statement (LOST).

In 2014 Solon residents voted to approve a Public Measure to collect the one penny sales tax (LOST) from 2015 to 2025 with the funds to be used as follows:

- 90% for street improvements, storm drainage, water and sewer infrastructure
- 10% for recreation department for youth and senior citizen activities

To date, the LOST funds have been used toward the following city projects:

- Hwy 1 & Main Street Traffic Light
- Solon Senior Dining Meal Delivery & Site Manager Salary
- Sidewalk section from Solon Middle School to SRNA
- Ground Storage Water Reservoir/Booster Main Project
- Sidewalk section from SRNA to Hwy 382
- Hwy 1 and 5th Street Traffic Light
- Outdoor basketball court surfacing and hoops at SRNA
- Splash Pad Infrastructure
- Hwy 1 sidewalk section connection from Bridge Bank to Windflower Lane
- North Trunk Sewer Project (underway)
- Fox Ridge Storm Drainage Temporary Improvements
- Fox Ridge Storm Sewer Improvements
- 5th Street Improvement (in design phase)
- Stinocher Street Improvements (Request for design proposals phase)

This November, City residents will see the following question on the November ballot which expands the ability to use the LOST funds being collected toward recreation and emergency services facilities in addition to the original uses approved in 2014 (see above).

Below is the question that will be on the ballot on Nov. 2nd:

SHALL THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEASURE BE ADOPTED?

YES NO

A local sales and services tax shall be imposed in the City of Solon at the rate of one percent (1%) to be effective July 1, 2022 to remain in effect until subsequent vote of the electors of the City.

Revenues from the sales and services tax shall be allocated as follows:

0% for property tax relief

90% for street improvements, storm drainage, water and sewer infrastructure, **recreation and emergency services facilities,**

10% for recreation department for youth and senior citizen activities

Questions & Answers

Why this revision to the language? This change in language will allow the City of Solon to use LOST revenues toward the new Fire House Project, the remodel of the former Recreation Office (former City Hall and Library building) for a Johnson County Sheriff's Department substation to increase law enforcement presence in the city, and for future recreation facilities.

LOST funds are collected through a one cent sales tax which is paid by all who spend money on retail services and on certain services in Solon regardless of whether you are a city resident (excludes groceries, vehicles, gas/electric).

Fire services and Recreation services are not limited to just residents that live within the city limits and using LOST funds toward these projects relieves city residents from bearing the sole burden of City's expenses related to emergency and recreation facilities.

Will this change collect more than the one penny tax? No, one penny is already being collected. This revision expands to City's ability to use the funds on facilities that are related to emergency services and recreation.

If approved by the city voters in on November 2nd, when will the changes to LOST become effective?
On July 1st, 2022.

Please Contact City Administrator Cami Rasmussen at 319-624-3755 or camirasmussen@solon-iowa.com if you have any additional questions about upcoming LOST ballot vote. Thank you