November 7, 2017 Ballot Question

Shall the following be adopted?
Shall Finney County, Kansas levy a retailers’ sales tax in the amount of .30%, to take effect on April 1, 2018, to be levied on retail sales consummated within the County for a period of 15 years, with revenues of such tax used by the County and the City of Garden City, Kansas as agreed in an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and County, which shall provide that revenues from levy of the tax allocated to the County and City shall be used to finance: (i) construction and improvement of Jennie Barker Road in the County to urban design standards, including signalization of the intersection of Jennie Barker Road and K-156 highway; (ii) construction, operation, maintenance and equipping of a third fire station to be located on the City’s east side and related City and County public safety facilities; (iii) construction and operation of an indoor shooting range; (iv) ongoing improvements at Lee Richardson Zoo; and (v) to pay obligations of the City or County issued to finance such purposes, if any, all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., as amended?

☑ A “yes” vote would be a vote to increase the sales tax by 0.30 percent, equivalent to $0.30 for every $100.00 spent in Finney County.
☑ A “no” vote would be a vote to maintain the current sales tax rate in Finney County.

Para espanol, visite www.garden-city.org/2017SalesTax
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the question before voters?
A. On November 7, 2017, voters will be asked to authorize a 0.30 percent (3/10ths of a cent) sales tax to fund improvements to Jennie Barker Road, the construction of a third fire station, the construction of an indoor gun range, and improvements at Lee Richardson Zoo.

Q. What are the improvements?
A. Improvements to Jennie Barker Road would include transitioning Jennie Barker Road between Schulman Avenue and K156 from a two-lane rural road to a three-lane urban road with sidewalks and a center lane for left turns. The sales tax would also provide funding for signalization at the K156 intersection.

The third fire station would be a new facility constructed on the east side of Garden City to meet increasing demand for emergency services.

The indoor shooting range would replace the current facility used by the Garden City Police Department, which is deteriorating and presenting safety risks to the officers and public who use it.

Improvements at Lee Richardson Zoo include a new Animal Health Facility, a new primate exhibit, and a new flamingo exhibit. All three projects have been recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for the well-being of the zoo's animals and staff alike.

Q. Who will be voting?
A. All registered voters in Finney County are eligible and encouraged to vote. Voters must be registered by October 17.

Q. Is this a new sales tax?
A. Yes

Q. What is the current tax rate?
A. The current citywide sales tax rate in Garden City is 8.65%. In the Stone Development CID, which includes Stone Creek Plaza, Old Chicago, Heritage Inn and Suites, Parrot Cove, Samy's Spirits and Steakhouse, Clarion Inn and Sleep Inn, the sales tax rate is 9.65%. The sales tax rate in Holcomb is 8.15%. The sales tax rate in unincorporated areas of Finney County is 7.65%.

Q. Is there a higher tax rate at Schulman Crossing or in the Downtown District?
A. No. The sales tax rate in these areas is 8.65%

Q. If this is approved, who will pay the tax?
A. Sales tax is paid by people who make purchases in Finney County, regardless of where they live.

Q. Will this tax have an expiration date or will it be permanent?
A. If approved, the tax would expire after 15 years. It is not a permanent tax.

Q. How do sales tax rates in Finney County compare to those of others in Kansas?
A. Here is a list of the sales tax rates in various Kansas cities.

- Junction City - 9.75%
- Leavenworth - 9.50%
- Lenexa - 9.35%
- Pittsburg - 9.25%
- Liberal - 9.25%
- Hutchinson - 9.10%
- Lawrence - 9.05%
- Manhattan - 8.95%
- Salina - 8.75%
- Garden City - 8.65%
- Dodge City - 8.65%
- Emporia - 8.60%
- Newton - 8.50%
- Holcomb - 8.15%

Q. How much money would be generated annually by a new 0.30 cent sales tax?
A. Current estimates are that a 0.30 cent countywide sales tax would generate $2,150,000 annually.

Q. How will the sales tax revenue be used?
A. Based on the state formula for countywide sales tax, Holcomb would receive approximately $85,000 annually. The remainder of the sales tax revenue would be used to pay for the projects listed, according to an interlocal agreement between the City of Garden City and Finney County.

Q. If approved, when would construction of these facilities start?
A. The Jennie Barker Road construction and signalization projects, the zoo improvement projects, and the gun range will all be constructed during the first five years of the sales tax using pay-as-you-go financing. The fire station will be constructed to open in 2024. The final ten years of the sales tax will cover debt service on a ten-year City general obligation bond and the annual operating expenses of the third fire station.

Q. What are the options if the sales tax is not authorized by voters?
A. City and County Commissions would need to decide whether the projects would be done. If so, they would be general fund obligations of the two organizations.

Q. Will there be public access to the shooting range?
A. Yes.