

EXHIBIT A

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
CITY OF ASHLAND
PROPOSAL TO INCREASE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX RATE
TO FUND WELLNESS AND AQUATIC CENTER
AND SPORTS FIELDS PROJECTS**

Shall the governing body of the incorporated municipality - the City of Ashland - increase the local sales and use tax rate by an additional one-half of one percent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$) from the current rate of one and one-half percent ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$) to a rate of two percent (2%) and impose a sales and use tax at the increased rate upon the same transactions within such municipality on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a tax?

☐ YES

☐ NO

A “Yes” Vote: If a majority of the votes cast upon such question shall be in favor of increasing such local sales and use tax rate by an additional one-half of one percent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$) to a rate of two percent (2%), then the governing body of such incorporated municipality - the City of Ashland - shall be empowered as provided by Section 77-27,142 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes and shall forthwith proceed to increase the local sales and use tax rate from one and one-half percent ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$) to two percent (2%), impose a sales and use tax at the increased rate upon the same transactions within such municipality on which the State of Nebraska is authorized to impose a tax pursuant to the Local Option Revenue Act, and use the revenues from the increased tax to pay the costs of constructing a wellness and aquatic center in the City and to pay the costs of improvements to the existing sports fields in the City.

A “No” Vote: If a majority of those voting on the question shall be opposed to such an increase of the local sales and use tax rate by an additional one-half of one percent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$), then the governing body of the incorporated municipality – the City of Ashland - shall not impose such a tax increase and the local sales and use tax rate will remain unchanged at one and one-half percent ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$).

Additional Information Regarding Proposed Local Sales and Use Tax Rate Increase:

List of reductions or elimination of other taxes or fees, if any: There is not contemplated at this time to be any elimination of other taxes or fees should a majority of those voting on such question be in favor of increasing the local sales and use tax rate.

Projects to be funded, in whole or in part, from the revenue collected, along with any savings or efficiencies resulting from the projects: Pursuant to the Local Option Revenue Act, revenues from the increase in the tax from one and one-half percent ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$) to two percent (2%) are to be used for public infrastructure projects. The City has determined that all of the increase will be designated for purposes of an interlocal agreement so that the revenues will be available to fund

debt service on bonds issued to pay the costs of constructing a wellness and aquatic center in and for the City and to pay the costs of improvements to the existing sports fields in and for the City. These improvements will be used and operated pursuant to an interlocal agreement between the City and Saunders County School District 0001 (Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools).

Years within which the revenue will be collected; payment of bonds: The increase in the sales and use tax will terminate upon the later of ten years after the effective date of the increased sales and use tax or, if bonds are issued and the local option sales and use tax revenue is pledged for payment of such bonds, upon payment of such bonds and any refunding bonds. The City anticipates that bonds will be issued to fund the projects and that the terms of those bonds will require the City to utilize the revenues from the increase in sales and use tax for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

Interlocal Agreement: The City of Ashland and Saunders County School District 0001 (Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools) have entered into an interlocal agreement that creates a separate administrative entity for purposes of the agreement. The interlocal agreement provides for the construction and operation of a wellness and aquatic center in and for the City and for the improvement and operation of existing sports fields in and for the City. All of these improvements will be used by the City and Saunders County School District 0001 (Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools). Such interlocal agreement contains provisions relating to the long-term development of unified governance of the wellness and aquatic center project and the sports fields.