

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR COLLIER COUNTY

Collier County voters will vote this fall on a seven-year, one-cent sales surtax to fund transportation projects, facilities and capital projects, and community priorities.

HERE IS A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE SURTAX



\$191M

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Four of the eight **Transportation projects** are part of the county's **long-range transportation plan**. The **bridge replacement program** would replace bridges built in 1948, 1951, or 1953. The **sidewalk project** would add sidewalks in key areas throughout the county and increase **safety for bicyclists and pedestrians**.



\$139M

FOR FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The **Sheriff's Forensic Evidence Building** would provide secure storage space for evidence and provide security restrictions and the appropriate climate controls. The **Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park** is a 49-acre park in northeastern Collier County that has been in the works for years. The county also is planning to replace **HVAC systems** well over their useful life, including one at the **East Naples Library**, the **Courthouse**, and the **Vineyards**, and to the Domestic Animal Services buildings to provide relief for animals.



\$90M

FOR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The **career and technical training center** would expand vocational training options for students and adults. The county would also create a workforce housing land trust fund to hold land in perpetuity and incentivize the construction of homes for **workers, seniors and people with disabilities**. It would also provide a match for a **veterans' nursing home**, and the county would build an **expanded mental health and addiction treatment facility**.

WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND?



Collier County Residents



Tourists



Commuters to Collier County

An estimated 30% of the sales tax will be paid for by tourists, visitors, and individuals who work in Collier County, but don't live here.

HOW WILL COLLIER COUNTY COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES?

61 OF 67 FLORIDA COUNTIES HAVE APPROVED A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS. APPROVAL OF THE ONE-CENT INFRASTRUCTURE SALES TAX WOULD PUT **COLLIER COUNTY'S** SALES TAX IN LINE WITH HENDRY, GLADES, MANATEE, MIAMI-DADE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX?

The proposed infrastructure sales surtax must be approved by a majority of voters before it can be enacted. **It ends after a period of seven years and can't be extended unless approved by voters.**

FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNITY

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➔ WHAT IS A DISCRETIONARY SALES SURTAX?

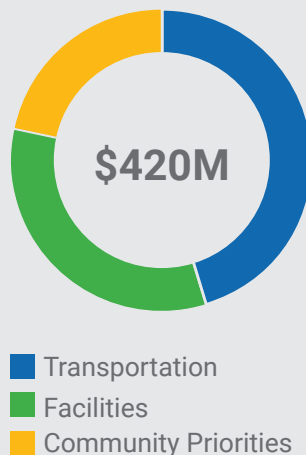
State law allows individual Florida counties to impose a sales surtax called a discretionary sales surtax or a local option sales surtax. Local governments use money raised from the local option sales tax to pay for authorized projects. A local option sales tax is subject to voter approval.

➔ HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Collier Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted to place a seven-year, one-cent infrastructure sales surtax referendum on the November 6 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the local option sales tax would raise an estimated **\$490 million** over seven years — or **\$70 million** a year — countywide.

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE USED?

The Collier BCC approved a project list that spells out how the county would spend the **\$420 million** it would receive.



- **\$191 million** for transportation projects, including improvements to sidewalks and several key roads.
- **\$139 million** for facilities and other capital projects, including the Big Corkscrew Regional Park and hurricane resiliency projects.
- **\$90 million** for community priorities, including a career and technical training center, mental health and addiction treatment facility, and a workforce housing land trust fund.

Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City will split **\$70 million** over the course of the tax, which will be used for city-specific projects.

➔ WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX?

- The proposed infrastructure sales surtax must be approved by a majority of voters before it can be enacted. It ends after a period of seven years and can't be extended unless approved by voters. It helps keep property-based taxes and fees low; can't be used for salaries and other operational costs; and has citizen oversight to ensure that monies raised are properly spent.
- Instituting a local option sales tax means all users pay, not just property owners.

An estimated **30%** of the sales tax will be paid for by tourists, visitors, and individuals who work in Collier County, but don't live here.

➔ WHAT IS A ONE-CENT SALES SURTAX APPLIED TO?

- The one-cent infrastructure sales surtax will be applied to all transactions subject to the state sales tax.
- It is capped at the first \$5,000 of a single consumer purchase. Exempt items include groceries and medicine.

→ HOW WILL COLLIER COUNTY COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES?

- 61 of 67 Florida counties have approved a local option sales tax to address community needs. Approval of the one-cent infrastructure sales tax would put Collier County's sales tax in line with Hendry, Glades, Manatee, Miami-Dade and Sarasota counties.
- Lee County leaders have placed a half-cent sales surtax on the November 2018 ballot for education issues.

→ THERE'S NEARLY \$200 MILLION WORTH OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ON THIS LIST. WHY ISN'T THE COUNTY USING IMPACT FEES TO PAY FOR THESE PROJECTS?

- Most of the money generated from the sales tax will be used for projects that benefit people who already live and work in our community, not to benefit future growth.
- The county collected about \$100 million in impact fees in 2007. In 2018, it is expected to collect about \$40 million. Since 2005, the county's general fund, or main operating fund, has loaned the impact fee fund \$100 million.

→ WHY NOT JUST BORROW THE MONEY?

- It costs money to borrow money. Additional interest expenses would cost over \$100 million, and Collier County taxpayers would have to cover those costs.
- Property-based taxes and fees would likely increase to pay for the cost of borrowing.



Do we really need those projects?

The short answer: Yes. County leaders have said numerous times that the projects on the list are needed and will get done, it's just a matter of how to pay for them.



TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Four of the eight transportation projects (Vanderbilt Beach Road Extension, Pine Ridge Road at Livingston Road improvements; Randall Boulevard improvements; Airport Road widening) are part of the county's long-range transportation plan. The bridge replacement program would replace bridges built in 1948, 1951, or 1953 all of which are past their expected life span. The sidewalk project would add sidewalks in key areas throughout the county and increase safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.



FACILITIES/CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Sheriff's Forensic Evidence Building would provide secure storage space for evidence, including drugs and weapons and provide security restrictions and the appropriate climate controls. The Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is a 49-acre park in northeastern Collier that has been in the works for years. The county also is planning to replace HVAC systems well over their useful life, including one at the East Naples Library, the Courthouse, and the Vineyards, and to the Domestic Animal Services buildings to provide relief for animals.



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The career and technical training center would expand vocational training options for students and adults. The county would also create a workforce housing land trust fund to hold land in perpetuity and incentivize the construction of homes for workers, seniors and people with disabilities. It would also provide a match for a veterans' nursing home, and the county would build an expanded mental health and addiction treatment facility.