

Press Release

Contact: Taney County Commission Office 417-546-7204

Taney Co., Missouri

February 13, 2020

Countywide Law Enforcement Ballot Question

When you go vote April 7, you will find an initiative relating to Taney County Law Enforcement on your ballot. The Taney County Sheriff's Department, Jail, Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Juvenile Office would receive revenue from the proposed 3/8 cent law enforcement tax (with a 15-year sunset), while repealing the current 1/8 cent tax.

- The passage of this ballot initiative will allow for the hiring of additional officers for countywide patrol and additional officers for the jail. The county could offer competitive salaries in line with neighboring law enforcement agencies to assist with hiring of quality candidates and retention of existing officers.
- In 2019, call volume for the Sheriff's Dept. increased to 13,436, averaging 37 calls per day, with an average response time of almost 33 minutes. There are between 4 to 5 officers on duty at any given time to cover the 652 square miles of the county. Additional staff will not only provide improved safety for citizens but hopefully decrease the number and severity of injuries endured by officers (53 over the past three years with two officers unable to return to duty).
- Jail expansion, maintenance and updates are needed. The capacity of the Taney County jail is 268 inmates with a peak population hitting capacity in the past few years.
- At the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the 10-year office caseload averaged 4,048 (810 cases per attorney per year). Because of changes with the reporting process of cases involving the Highway Patrol and the closure of local municipal courts we expect an exponential increase in this caseload in the near future. Taney County needs competitive salaries to attract and retain quality employees as well as an addition of one new Assistant Prosecutor and one new legal clerk. Technology upgrades are necessary to support paperless systems and ensure case file storage, memory and security.
- The Juvenile Office needs competitive salaries to attract and retain quality employees, including new Juvenile officers and new support staff to handle the increased load. That office is currently understaffed and facing unfunded state mandates which will raise juvenile age to 17 that could double the amount of cases referred to the Taney Co. Juvenile office.

BALLOT QUESTION

“Shall Taney County impose a countywide sales tax of three-eighths (3/8) of one percent (1%), for a period of fifteen (15) years for the purpose of providing law enforcement services for the county, including providing funding to support capital improvements, equipment and operations of the Sheriff's Department and Jail, Prosecuting Attorney's office and Juvenile office, and repeal the existing countywide sales tax previously authorized for the enforcement services of one-eighth (1/8) of one (1%)?”

YES

NO

If you are in favor of the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “YES”. If you are opposed to the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “NO”.

Below are the scheduled town hall and informational meetings scheduled as of the time of this release. Additional meetings will be posted as scheduled prior to Election Day.

1. Town Hall Meeting, Forsyth High School Performing Arts Center
Monday, February 17, 2020 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
2. Town Hall Meeting, Pointe Royale Clubhouse, Branson, Mo
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
3. The TCFRW - Republican Women Meeting, Pour House, Downing Street
Hollister, Mo
Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00 PM-7:00 PM
4. Forsyth Chamber Luncheon, Forsyth Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
5. Town Hall Meeting, OTC Table Rock Campus, Hollister, Mo
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM
6. Town Hall Meeting, Kirbyville Middle School
Monday, March 16, 2020 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

