



ONE-CENT SALES SURTAX

frequently asked questions...

what...

In August, voters will be asked the question of whether to allow Martin County to add a one-cent local sales surtax on taxable items over the next 10 years.

when...

The One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Surtax Referendum will appear on the ballot on August 29, 2017 and, if approved, become effective on January 1, 2018.

who...

A one-cent sales surtax distributes the financial impact across property owners, non-property owner residents, tourists, and consumers from neighboring communities who dine and shop in Martin County.

why...

- Martin County has critical needs for infrastructure as a result the economic downturn, unfunded mandates handed down by the legislature, and aging infrastructure.
- A one-cent sales surtax positions Martin County to address critical needs in the areas of water quality, roads, public safety, and public works.
- Completion of the projects will protect the environment, improve quality of life, and enhance public safety.

how...

- The current sales tax rate collected by the State of Florida is six percent. An additional one cent (or one percent) will be added to the taxable value of items.
- One-half percent of the six percent sales tax is returned to the County by the State. These funds are used for operations, not infrastructure.
- Sales tax is collected for some services and most goods.
- Necessities such as groceries and prescription drugs are exempt from sales tax (Note: items such as candy, soda, and diapers are not considered grocery items in Florida) *See infographic on back page.*

ballot language

In order to protect the environment and safeguard Martin County's quality of life, shall Martin County levy an additional one cent sales surtax for 10 years to provide funding for: water quality projects that reduce pollutants to our estuaries; projects to construct and reconstruct county facilities including sheriff, fire rescue, and public works facilities; and for reconstruction of road infrastructure? Projects subject to annual review and approval at a public hearing.

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oversight...

- Funds generated by the one-cent sales surtax will be used for projects that have been approved for inclusion in the County's Capital Improvement Plan.
- Projects will be prioritized and all expenditures of sales surtax proceeds must be approved by a majority of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners at an advertised public hearing at which the public will have an opportunity to provide comment.
- At least 35 percent of the funds collected will be used for water quality projects.

additional info...

- 61 of Florida's 67 counties levy an additional local sales tax (or surtax).
- 55 counties have a one-cent surtax and 6 counties have a half-cent surtax.
- It is estimated that this tax would generate \$230 million for Martin County over the ten-year period (approximately \$23 million annually).
- If the sales surtax passes, the Martin County BOCC has committed to reducing the FPL franchise fee. Residents in unincorporated Martin County will see a significant reduction.

sales tax exemptions in Florida

In Florida, certain items may be exempt from the sales tax to all consumers, not just tax-exempt purchasers.

Certain groceries, any prosthetic or orthopedic instruments, any remedies which are considered to be common household remedies, any seeds and fertilizers, and any cosmetics are considered to be exempt in Florida.

Many states have special, lowered sales tax rates for certain types of staple goods - such as groceries, clothing, and medicines. Restaurant meals may also have a special sales tax rate. Here are the special category rates for Florida:

Clothing	Groceries	Prepared Food	Prescription Drugs	OTC Drugs
 6%	 EXEMPT	 6%	 EXEMPT	 6%

These categories may have some further qualifications before the special rate applies, such as a price cap on clothing items. Groceries are generally defined as "unprepared food," while pre-prepared food may be subject to the restaurant food tax rate.

Candy and soda may be included or excluded from any preferential tax rate depending on whether or not the state considers them to be a "grocery."



Candy is NOT considered a grocery in Florida



Soda is NOT considered a grocery in Florida



Diapers are NOT considered a grocery in Florida

<https://www.salestaxhandbook.com/florida/sales-tax-exemptions>

For additional information and resources, visit www.martin.fl.us