



SHAWNEE
Chamber of Commerce

15100 W. 67th Street, Suite 202 Shawnee, KS 66217-9344
(913) 631-6545 (913) 631-9628 (fax) www.shawneeschamber.com

Support for Renewal and Continuation of the Existing Quarter-Cent Countywide Local Sales Tax for Public Safety

Johnson County voters will go to the polls on August 5, 2008, to decide whether an existing quarter-cent countywide sales tax should be continued for public safety projects. Originally approved by voters in 2002 the county's portion of the sales tax has previously benefited the local public schools when the State of Kansas fell short of their funding obligation.

Under the proposal to be submitted to voters in the August 2008 primary election:

- Revenues would be used for both capital costs and operating costs related to public safety programs, including build and operate a new crime laboratory, build and operate a juvenile services complex, fund a jail expansion through construction bonds and future jail operations as well as converting the downtown Olathe jail into a booking facility.
- The sales tax has no sunset as the operating costs for public safety facilities are expected to increase as the county continues to grow.
- Johnson County's portion two-thirds (2/3) of the tax, would raise an estimated \$19.6 million in 2009.
- In accordance with the statutory formula governing countywide sales taxes, Johnson County cities would continue to receive about one-third (1/3) of the sales tax money raised. The City of Shawnee could receive up to 1.5 million from these funds.

On May 28, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to support the renewal and continuation of the existing quarter-cent countywide sales tax for public safety on the August 5, 2008 primary election ballot.

June 2008