

Tuesday, September 1, 1998, you can cast your vote on Alachua County Recreation

Submitted by Wayne Bowers #980243

Alachua County and the cities of Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, LaCrosse, Micapopy, Newberry, and Waldo are proposing an increase of the current sales tax rate from 6% to 7% for eight years.

This increase will generate an estimated total of \$202 million that can only be spent on recreational improvements. Since the Gainesville area is a regional shopping center, many tourists visit the county driving on I-75, and the area has many visitors for such events as University of Florida sports and Gatormational racing, approximately 25% of the money raised will be paid by persons who do not reside in Alachua County.

Facilities to be constructed with new tax dollars include soccer/football fields, baseball/softball fields, skateboarding facilities, community centers, walking and fitness trails, a senior citizen center, and children's playgrounds.

How does Alachua County compare to other metropolitan areas in recreation programming? Currently Alachua County ranks near the bottom, 29th out of the top 31 metropolitan communities in the state.

O.K., but how much will it cost me?

The tax will cost you one cent on every dollar you spend on taxable purchases. Items such as groceries, medicine, and rent are excluded from the tax. After you make payments on your house or apartment and car, and buy your groceries and medicine, if you spend an additional \$500 per month, you would pay an additional tax of \$5 per month.

What if I want to buy a boat or a new car?

This tax will only apply to the first \$5,000 of any purchase. So, if you purchased a boat or car, you would only pay a maximum of \$50 in taxes on the purchase.

What will I get for my money?

If the proposed increase is passed, over 140 facilities will be built or renovated in the City of Gainesville alone. These include new soccer/football fields, baseball/softball complexes, skateboard parks, nature trails, and many other needed improvements. Also, the one percent tax will provide for operations, maintenance and programs at the new and improved facilities, including afterschool programs at each of the middle schools located in the City of Gainesville.

Prepared as a public service by the City of Gainesville Office of Management and Budget.

For more information on the Recreation Initiative, please call the City of Gainesville at 334-5067, or log on to the City of Gainesville homepage at www.state.fl.us/gvl/Kiosk/Recreation/index.html

Vote September 1!

This is an important decision for the future of our community. Please be informed on the proposal and

Facilities to be built or refurbished in the City of Gainesville include:

- 31 Soccer/Football Fields
- 19 Baseball Fields
- 15 Multi-Purpose Hardcourts
- 4 Pools
- 1 Horse Trail
- 1 Observation Tower
- 2 Picnic Areas/Pavilions
- 2 Walking/Jogging Trails
- 1 Boardwalk
- 21 Tot Lots/Playgrounds
- 3 Volleyball Beaches
- 18 Softball Fields
- 1 Golf Course
- 1 Horse Stable
- 3 Skateboard Facilities
- 6 Tennis Courts
- 2 Quarter Mile Tracks
- 4 Gymnasiums
- 1 Racquetball Court

No, you will only pay the 1¢ on items that are currently subject to sales tax.

Do I have to pay the sales tax on food and medicine?

and staffing for the life of the facilities.

Two-thirds of the money raised will go into a trust fund and the earnings will ensure proper maintenance

How will programs and maintenance be funded after the tax expires in eight years?

Funding for both maintenance and staffing will be provided for from the tax proceeds.

Who will pay for the maintenance and staffing of these projects?

Construction of facilities will begin within the next year.

But, how long will it be until I see the results?

Your elected officials. Each city and the County will control its share of the tax revenues.

Who will control the money?

Not without taking it back to the voters of Alachua County.

But can it be extended?

ending December 31, 2006.

If passed, the additional one percent tax will commence on January 1, 1999, and last for only eight years,

How long will the tax last?

Proposed Recreation Improvements with Sales Tax Dollars

This map only includes projects within the City of Gainesville. For more information on any project listed, please call the City of Gainesville Dept. of Recreation and Parks at 334-5067. For information on Alachua County parks or those of its other cities please call the Alachua County Public Works Department.

- 1 Bivens Arm Park
- 2 Boulware Springs
- 3 Citizens Park
- 4 Conant Property
- 5 Cone Park
- 6 Dwight Hunter Pool
- 7 Green Acre Park
- 8 Greentree Park
- 9 Ironwood Golf Course
- 10 T. B. McPherson Park
- 11 Morningside Nature Center
- 12 Multipurpose Center (Site to be Determined)
- 13 Multipurpose Cultural Center (Site to be Determined)
- 14 Northeast Park
- 15 Northside Park
- 16 Possum Creek Park
- 17 Rosa B. Williams-Union Academy
- 18 Senior Citizen's Recreation Center (Site to be Determined)
- 19 Skate Board Park (Site to be Determined)
- 20 Soccer Fields (Site to be Determined)
- 21 Thelma A. Boltin Center
- 22 Tot Lot 1
- 23 Tot Lot 2
- 24 Tot Lot 3
- 25 Tot Lot 4
- 26 Tot Lot 5
- 27 Tot Lot 6
- 28 Tot Lot 7
- 29 Tot Lot 8
- 30 Tot Lot 9
- 31 Westside Park
- 32 Wilhemina Johnson
- 33 A Quinn Jones
- 34 Duval Elementary School
- 35 Family Services Center
- 36 Gainesville High School
- 37 Glen Springs Elementary School
- 38 Horizon-New Pathways
- 39 Howard Bishop Middle School
- 40 J.J. Finley Elementary School
- 41 Kirby Smith Center
- 42 Lincoln Middle School
- 43 Littlewood Elementary School
- 44 Lotten High School
- 45 Metcalfe Elementary School
- 46 Norton Elementary School
- 47 Rawlings Elementary School
- 48 Sidney Lanier Center
- 49 Stephen Foster Elementary School
- 50 Terwilliger Elementary School
- 51 Westwood Middle School
- 52 Williams Elementary School

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
 Gainesville, Florida
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