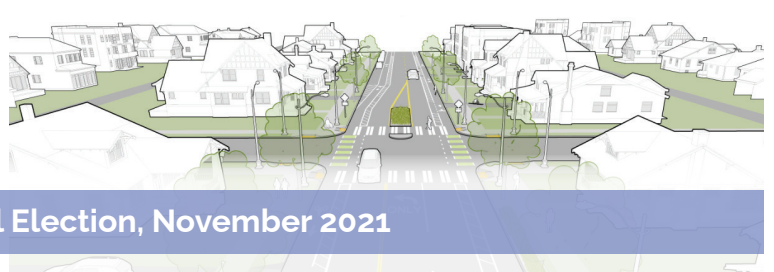


Proposition Action: Listening to You



City of Joplin Municipal Election, November 2021

Dear Joplin Citizens,

On November 2, 2021, Joplin voters will answer a question whether to collect a local use tax on items purchased from out-of-state vendors and shipped to Joplin for use. It is listed on the ballot as "City of Joplin - Proposition Action".

This brochure provides information about this local use tax and addresses some questions you may have. We encourage you to read this brochure thoroughly. We thank you for taking your time in serious consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,
The Joplin City Council

Proposition Action – Listening to YOU

Last year citizens shared their thoughts on the City's strengths, areas that need attention, and ways they would like to see Joplin grow in response to the City Manager's Listening Tour. The City heard the concerns and has begun working on these matters.

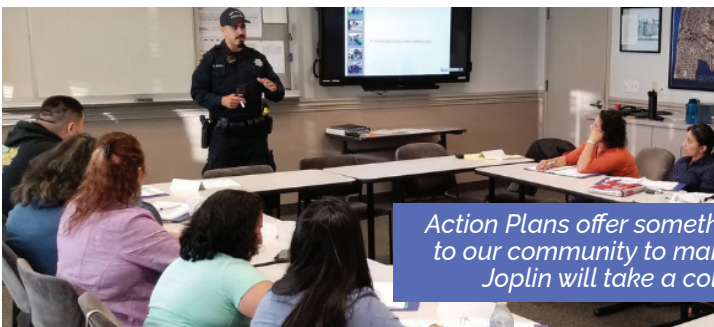
The Joplin City Council set strategic goals to move Joplin forward with a community vision that has been inspired by our citizens. The goals include:

- Improve community appearance
- Address declining neighborhoods
- Increase economic opportunities for all
- Address homelessness
- Reduce crime and increase safety
- Create and grow resilient revenue to improve city service levels and maintain infrastructure

Following direction set by the Mayor and Council, City staff developed Action Plans that identifies programs and processes to focus on goal areas. New programs have been created, while others will be brought back from previous successful projects. There are nearly 50 Action Plans in place. Additional resources will be needed for some plans, while others will focus on collaboration among departments and community organizations.

The Action Plans can be found on the City's website at www.joplinmo.org/elections and include a wide variety of areas. For example, there are plans to:

- Help clean up neighborhoods and businesses, as well as ways to recognize those who excel in community appearance, creating an attractive Joplin for both citizens and visitors
- Address ways to increase public safety staffing and efforts for more visibility of our police officers within neighborhoods and enhance fire services;
- Engage with existing community partners to address homelessness and provide appropriate outreach and assistance to those in need;
- Improve economic development efforts to attract new businesses and bolster our existing companies and entrepreneurs; and
- Develop positive messaging to promote Joplin's strengths to job seekers, business owners and others who are looking to relocate.



Action Plans offer something for almost everyone, providing benefits to our community to make Joplin better. This effort for an improved Joplin will take a collaborative approach with our citizens.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION



PARK SECURITY POSITION

What is a Use Tax?

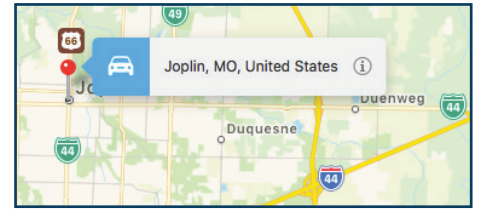
It's all about location.....

A local use tax applies to purchases made from out-of-state vendors and shipped to a location in Joplin. It is applied to the same type of products subject to traditional sales tax. The difference is where the goods are purchased and shipped.

If you purchase an item at a retail store in Joplin, you pay city sales tax. On the other hand, if you purchase an item through the internet or by catalog from an out-of-state business and have the item shipped to Joplin, then the use tax would apply. You would never

pay both. It's one or the other, depending on where the goods are purchased.

The Use Tax will be collected at the same rate as the current Sales Tax (3.125 percent). Revenues collected from the Use Tax will be used to improve the community by meeting the City Council goals through the 2021 Action Plans.



Why do we need a Use Tax?



The City's sales tax revenues have remained relatively flat because Joplin currently does not receive any tax revenues from online purchases. As residents now purchase many items online, the City's financial resources for critical services for our community are being eroded, limiting any new efforts our community wants and needs. This is not just an issue affecting the online shopper. It affects all of us in the community. By not collecting this tax on purchases made online, the City is losing an estimated \$3.7 million each year. These resources could be utilized to address the improvements citizens have said were important for the future of Joplin.

Without new revenue, the City cannot fund these Action Plans.

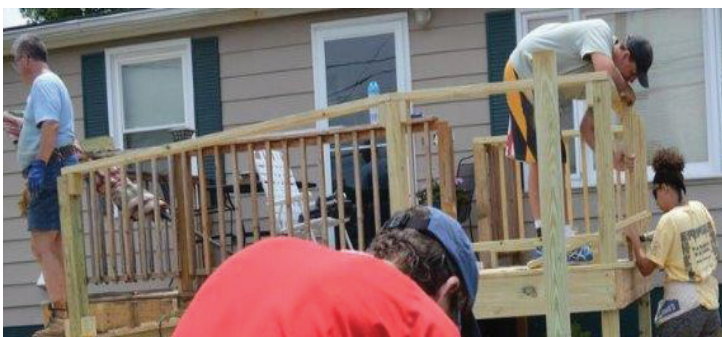
Do other cities have a use tax?

More than half the cities in Missouri have a use tax in place including Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and Columbia. Citizens in our neighboring towns of Webb City and Carthage recently approved a use tax. Currently, the City of Joplin cannot collect anything on these sales without the use tax vote.

How would the City spend these revenues from a Use Tax?

If a Use Tax is in place, the City would receive the tax revenue from online purchases providing funds for community betterment and allow the City to implement the 2021 Action Plans focusing on five key areas:

- *Improving the community's appearance can be achieved through various ways such as street adoption programs and developing a public art incentive program. Initiating the Complete Streets approach and beautification projects could also help achieve results.*
- *As Joplin approaches its 150th birthday, there are neighborhoods within our community needing some attention. Action Plans discuss better property maintenance, housing revitalization, reducing vacant buildings, and bringing back the Joplin Homeowners Assistance Program (JHAP).*
- *Boosting our economic development efforts can be addressed through concentrated marketing effort of Joplin and continuing the Smart Cities initiative by expanding broadband internet accessibility throughout the city.*
- *Homelessness is a concern for many and requires community partners to exercise a delicate balance of assistance and accountability.*
- *Action Plans for reducing crime and increasing safety will bring more officers and firefighters into our community, while also extending public outreach and engagement. Creating Park Ranger positions will provide after-hours supervision and oversight of City parks and facilities to alleviate vandalism and other community issues.*



With the public and private sectors working together, these goals are attainable. The result will bring an energy and shine a new light on our community as a vibrant and attractive Joplin.

Will the Use Tax have other local benefits?

- It helps retain local businesses, in turn keeping local jobs in the area.
- It replaces the local sales tax that is not collected on out-of-state purchases, including online and catalog purchases.
- It helps to ensure the City has the resources needed to address city-wide beautification, neighborhood blight, homelessness, and decrease crime and increase safety.

Doesn't Amazon already collect this use tax?

Amazon.com volunteered in February 2017 to begin collecting and remitting use tax in Missouri for cities that have a use tax already in place. Joplin does not currently capture this revenue from Amazon and other online retailers, since there is no approved use tax currently in place.

I don't buy anything online, so how will it affect me?

If you do not buy goods online from out-of-state vendors which have to be shipped to you in Joplin, you will not pay any use tax.

If you do not buy goods online from out-of-state vendors which to be shipped to you in Joplin, you will not pay any use tax. However, this does affect everyone because without a Use Tax in place, the City does not collect any tax revenue from online sales. These revenues, estimated between \$3 to \$4 million annually, could be reinvested in Joplin and support the Action Plans.

Is this a new Sales Tax?

Not in traditional terms – the City's sales taxes already apply to purchases made and picked up from vendors in Joplin. The local use tax would simply extend the same rate of tax to purchases made from out-of-state vendors and shipped to you in Joplin.

How does the ballot question read?

City of Joplin - PROPOSITION ACTION

In an attempt to eliminate the un-fair advantage enjoyed by out-of-state vendors over local vendors, shall the City of Joplin impose a local use tax at the same rate as the total local sales tax rate, currently three and one-eighth percent (3.125 percent), provided that if any local sales tax is repealed, reduced, or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be repealed, reduced, or raised by the same action? A use tax return shall not be required to be filed by persons whose purchases from out-of-state vendors do not in total exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in any calendar year.



If you support this question, then you vote "YES"



If you do not support this question, then you vote "NO"

When do I vote on this issue?

Election Day is November 2, 2021. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where do I vote on this issue?

For residents living in Jasper County, contact:

Jasper County Clerk's Office
601 S. Pearl, Room 200 • Joplin, MO 64801
417-625-4307
Website: www.jaspercounty.org/election

For residents living in Newton County, contact:

Newton County Clerk's Office
101 S. Wood St. • Neosho, MO 64850
417-451-8221
Website: www.newtoncountymmo.com/county-clerk

How do I vote Absentee for the November 2, 2021 election?

Please contact your local election office regarding the specific guidelines to vote absentee in a Missouri election.



602 South Main Street • Joplin, Missouri 64801

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JOPLIN RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

I already pay Sales Tax on purchases, is this the same thing?

The differences between a Use Tax and a Sales Tax are illustrated below:

USE TAX	SALES TAX
Applies to purchases made from out-of-state vendors that are shipped to Joplin	Applies to purchases made in person at retail store at the time of purchase
Does not apply if purchase is subject to sales tax	Sales tax is charged based on the location of the Seller (different cities have different tax rates)
Local use tax always mirrors the local sales tax rate, which is currently 3.125%	You never pay both a Sales Tax and a Use Tax; only one or the other applies

We saw the benefits of working together following the tornado. There is great value in working in partnership. Let's partner together as we strive to make Joplin the city we want and deserve.

– Mayor Ryan Stanley

*For more information or questions log onto:
www.joplinmo.org/elections
or call
417-624-0820, x1204*



SCAN ME

We're thankful for your feedback that allowed us to set intentional goals that bring revitalization to our community to make our next 150 years as great as our past 150 years.

*– Mayor Pro Tem
Keenan Cortez*

