

# CITY OF CENTRALIA

## Voters' Guide—2015 Election

Let me get this straight...

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- Q:** Why does the City need to raise additional funds for streets?
- A:** The City does not currently have sufficient funds to make needed street repairs and improvements and maintain existing service levels.
- Q:** How much additional revenue is required to make needed repairs?
- A:** To repair all of Centralia's streets to "like new" condition would cost tens of millions of dollars. The projected \$650,000 this tax would generate every year would fund the most critical repairs.
- Q:** Would the tax apply only to the residents of Centralia?
- A:** No—the tax would apply to anyone who shops within the City limits and not just to residents.
- Q:** Can the proposed sales tax increase be used for anything unrelated to streets?
- A:** No. The funds could only be used to repair and improve Centralia streets.
- Q:** Would the sales tax increase be permanent?
- A:** No. The additional tax would end in ten (10) years.
- Q:** What would Centralia's sales tax rate be? How would it compare to neighboring cities:
- A:** Centralia's sales tax rate would be 8.2% (up from 8%). Other cities include: Chehalis (8%); Tumwater (8.9%); Olympia (8.8%); Longview (8.0%) and Aberdeen (8.63%)
- Q:** How much would the .2% sales tax increase a typical purchase?
- A:** A \$5.00 premium coffee beverage would increase by 1 cent (20 cents on every \$100)
- Q:** How much work could be done every year with the estimated revenues of \$650,000?
- A:** The City could crack and chipseal 100 city blocks and have \$250,000 available for major construction projects every year.



Deteriorating asphalt—Johnson Rd.

### Sales and Use Tax Levy

The Governing Board of the Transportation Benefit District of the City of Centralia, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 2015-01 concerning a sales and use tax to finance transportation improvements. This proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) to be collected, in addition to any other taxes authorized by law, within the District from all taxable retail sales in accordance with RCW 82.14.0455 for a term of ten years (2016-2025) to pay or finance a portion of the costs of transportation improvement projects identified in the six-year transportation improvement and/or comprehensive plans of the City of Centralia.



Left side—new asphalt on Galvin Rd.

Right side—chip seal done by City summer of 2014