

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