

Penny Sales Tax Renewal

Marion County voters will be able to vote on a 20-year, 1-cent surtax to continue funding countless infrastructure, transportation, and community projects within Marion County and its municipalities.

SUMMARY OF THE PENNY SALES TAX

CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN



An estimated 30% of the Penny Sales Tax will be paid by tourists, visitors, and individuals who work in Marion County, but don't live here.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX?

The proposed Penny Sales Tax renewal must be approved by a majority of voters before it can be enacted. **It ends after a period of specified time period and can't be extended unless approved by voters.**

HOW WILL MARION COUNTY COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES?

61 OF 67 FLORIDA COUNTIES have approved a local option sales tax to address community needs. Renewal of the Penny Sales Tax brings **Marion County** in line with Glades, Hendry, Manatee, Miami-Dade, and Sarasota counties.



\$962 million

ROAD PROJECTS

Four of the eight **transportation projects** planned to use funding from this are part of the county's **long-range transportation plan**. There's a total of over **24 miles of roadway** planned and in progress across 27 individual transportation projects.



\$318 million

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS

The sheriff's forensic evidence building, along with over **24 EMR** vehicles and equipment, including water tankers, extractors, ladder trucks, ambulances, and more have been purchased. The Penny Sales tax has also funded the **MCSO helicopter unit**, used to assist in the search efforts for missing persons and assisting officers in pursuit.



\$20 million

ANIMAL SERVICES PROJECTS

A new Animal Services facility has also been funded by the tax and is currently set for **completion by 2025**.



PENNY SALES TAX

To learn more, visit: www.MarionSalesTax.com.

Public Safety, Transportation & Animal Services

WHAT IS A DISCRETIONARY SALES SURTAX?

State law allows individual Florida counties to impose a sales surtax called a discretionary sales surtax or a local option sales surtax. Local governments use money raised from the local option sales tax to pay for authorized projects. A local option sales tax is subject to voter approval.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners voted to place a 20-year extension of the 1-cent infrastructure sales surtax referendum on the Nov. 6 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the local option sales tax would raise an estimated **\$1.4 billion** over twenty-years – or **\$70 million** a year – countywide.



The Penny Sales Tax began collecting revenues in **January 2016** after voters approved the referendum via the November 2015 presidential ballot.

Year	Revenue
2016-17	\$ 25,710,753.38
2017-18	\$ 40,791,198.92
2018-19	\$ 42,537,298.26
2019-20	\$ 44,270,007.45
2020-21	\$ 52,561,047.37
2021-22	\$ 62,671,512.76
2022-23	\$ 65,962,613.03

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX?

- The proposed infrastructure sales surtax must be approved by a majority of voters before it can be enacted. It ends after a period of twenty years and can't be extended unless approved by voters. It helps keep property-based taxes and fees low; can't be used for salaries and other operational costs; and has citizen oversight to ensure that monies raised are properly spent.
- Instituting a local option sales tax means all users pay, not just property owners.

WHAT IS A ONE-CENT SALES SURTAX APPLIED TO?

- The one-cent infrastructure sales surtax will be applied to all transactions subject to the state sales tax.
- It is capped at the first \$5,000 of a single consumer purchase. Exempt items include groceries and medicine.

WHY NOT JUST BORROW THE MONEY?

- It costs money to borrow money. Additional interest expenses would cost over \$100 million, and Marion County taxpayers would have to cover those costs.
- Property-based taxes and fees would likely increase to pay for the cost of borrowing.