



**CHEAT SHEET: What is Vision Tulsa?** It's a sales tax renewal plan in Tulsa that is projected to produce about \$884 million over 15 years. Those funds would pay for improvements to public safety, economic development and transportation.

In addition to the Vision Tulsa votes on three propositions, there is a vote for all Tulsa County residents. That means Tulsans will see four sales-tax initiative propositions in the April 5 elections.

**Just to be clear: I can vote yes or no, separately, on four different propositions?** Yes. If you are a Tulsa resident, you will have four propositions, and you vote on them separately.

Some other cities in the area — Glenpool, Jenks, Owasso, Sapulpa and Collinsville — also have separate sales-tax initiatives on their ballots Tuesday.

**Are the city of Tulsa or the Tulsa County votes tax increases?** No. All of the Tulsa votes are for renewals of existing sales tax rates. A yes vote keeps taxes at the same rate; a no vote means taxes would decline.

**What am I voting on in Tulsa?** Here is a brief overview of the city's three propositions:

\* Public safety (Yes or No vote): The permanent tax would be 0.26% — or 26 cents on every \$100 of purchases — to hire an additional 160 police officers, 70 firefighters and 16 additional 911 personnel.

\* Transportation (Yes or No vote): The sales tax is 0.085% — or 8.5 cents on every \$100 of purchases — with 44 % to street maintenance and the rest to transit operations and capital.

\* Economic development (Yes or No vote): Goes to a wide range of developments, the most high profile of which are two dams on the Arkansas River — one at Zink Lake and the other in the south Tulsa/Jenks area. Others include Gilcrease Museum expansion, \$65 million; Cox Business Center renovations, \$55 million; Expo Square improvements, \$30 million; airport infrastructure, \$27.3 million; and the Tulsa Zoo, \$25 million.

**What is included in the county vote?** It's a tax of 0.05 percent — or five cents on every \$100 of purchases. Projects include capital expenditures for work on roads and infrastructure (\$53 million), county parks (\$14 million) and capital improvements for buildings and parking (\$8 million).

**Why have city leaders been so supportive of the economic development plan?** They say spending this money can spur private investments, which would increase sales tax revenue for the city and help all its residents. They point to the BOK Center, funded by the Vision 2025 tax, as helping fuel a renaissance of downtown development.

When visitors come to BOK Center events, they spend money in Tulsa on retail, restaurants and hotel rooms. That spending produces sales tax dollars, the primary source of funding for the city. Those dollars help pay for things residents want — such as parks, police protection, street improvements and more.

**Has there been opposition for the Vision Tulsa plan?** Yes. The concerns of Citizens for a Better Vision include the extension of taxes that would otherwise expire; the cost of low-water dams in the Arkansas River; and the public engagement process for economic development projects in north Tulsa.

The group also points to the possibility that a proposed 1-cent statewide sales tax for education funding could pass in November. If so, the renewed Vision tax and the education tax would leave Tulsa with one of the highest combined sales tax rates in the country.

**We have an education budget crisis. Why aren't we using this money for teacher pay raises?** Teacher salaries and school funding come primarily from state taxes and property taxes. Vision is a local sales tax.

**Is there anything in Vision to help education?** Yes. The economic development package includes nearly \$25 million for education. About \$10 million would go toward teacher retention and recruitment incentives. The fund also would provide for additional certification and training, as well as a housing-assistance program to help with teacher recruitment. About \$14.5 million is proposed to improve student safety. It includes sidewalk improvements, lighting, crosswalk striping and other school-by-school needs.

The education dollars aren't exclusively for Tulsa Public Schools. They would go toward any school in Tulsa, including Union and Jenks.

**Have other cities in the area voted on Vision tax plans?** Yes. Bixby, Broken Arrow and Sand Springs have approved initiatives.

**What is on the ballot in Collinsville, Jenks, Owasso, Sapulpa and Glenpool?** Tulsa County residents in each of the following communities will vote on the Tulsa County initiative described above. They also will have city votes on the ballot. Here is a brief review of each:

Collinsville residents in Tulsa County: It's a permanent 0.55% sales tax for streets, roads, bridges and other capital improvements.

Glenpool: Proposition 1 is a 0.29% sales tax that would last 20 years. It's intended for roads, water and wastewater, storm sewers, acquisition of parks and park improvements, and economic development. Proposition 2 is a 0.26% sales tax intended for police and fire infrastructure. A third proposition, unrelated to Vision, is a permanent 0.55% sales tax for new police officers and firefighters.

Jenks: It's a 0.55% sales tax that would last 15 years. The Vision tax is expected to produce \$16.6 million for construction and maintenance of the south Tulsa-Jenks low-water dam on the Arkansas River, roads and road maintenance, sidewalks and trails, stormwater and sewer infrastructure. If this tax does not pass, the south/Tulsa Jenks dam would not be constructed.

Owasso: The 0.55% sales tax would be in effect through 2023. The money would be for road improvements. The projects are 96th Street North from 119th East Avenue to 129th East Avenue; and on 116th Street North from U.S. 169 to Mingo Road.

Sapulpa residents in Tulsa County: The 0.50% sales tax is for promoting economic development and acquiring land. The tax would be in effect through 2031.