

# HALF-CENT FOR PSL PROGRESS

*BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS, AND CLEANER RIVERS*



*Half-Cent Sales Tax is estimated to generate \$18.6 million annually with 15 to 20 percent of the revenue generated by visitors outside of St. Lucie County.*

**P**ort St. Lucie, along with St. Lucie County and Fort Pierce, are about to embark on a new decade of progress after voters in November 2018 approved a half-cent sales tax to improve roads and rivers and build more sidewalks.

Elected leaders and staff from the county and two cities worked together for most of 2018 to help educate voters about the approved projects that will be made possible because of the half-cent sales tax increase. This collaboration resulted in a multi-faceted educational campaign that included websites, printed materials, videos, media appearances, two open house events and numerous community presentations and meetings.

“We’re building something special in Port St. Lucie; and to reach our full potential, to be a community that embraces the future while standing the test of time, we need to ensure that we have a solid foundation of basic infrastructure, that we have better roads and more sidewalks,” Mayor Gregory Oravec said in a mailer to residents.

Because of previous years of declining property values and the Great Recession, local governments have had to postpone maintenance projects such as repaving, sidewalks and stormwater improvements, creating a backlog in the billions.



# 2018 HALF-CENT SALES TAX VOTING STATS

**118,958 votes** cast on Ballot Question #14 in Nov 2018 (half-cent sales tax increase).

**66,365 votes** in favor to approve = **56%**

Of the 31 precincts in the City of Port St. Lucie, **30 approved the sales tax.** The one precinct where it lost, it only came up short by 11 votes (52 votes for, 63 votes against).

This half-cent sales tax increase will expire in 10 years and is estimated to generate \$18.6 million annually with 15 to 20 percent of the revenue generated by visitors from outside of St. Lucie County.

Every dollar will be spent on projects in St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Village. The City's project list was created in response to community input and validated by a scientific poll completed by our citizens. Port St. Lucie is expected to receive \$88M over the 10-year period. The City's project list includes completing its entire sidewalk master plan, improving intersections on St. Lucie West Boulevard, funding the City's road repaving program and completing major improvements to Floresta Drive and California Blvd. Please see the full project list graphic.

The half-cent sales tax will bring the total sales tax rate to seven percent – the same as Indian River and Palm Beach Counties. It will not apply to purchases of gas, groceries, or medicine. For large expenses, such as automobile or boat purchases, the tax would only be applied to the first \$5,000 of the purchase.

Shortly after voters approved the sales tax, the Port St. Lucie City Council approved the creation of a seven-member Citizens Oversight Committee that will ensure this revenue is spent and allocated according to the approved project list.

Inside City Hall, a Sales Tax Action Team (STAT) immediately began preparing for the approved projects and is committed to the successful completion of the projects on time, within budget, and to regularly communicate to the public about the progress through multiple platforms including a dedicated webpage, [www.cityofpsl.com/salestax](http://www.cityofpsl.com/salestax).

Port St. Lucie thanks voters for making this investment in our future. To read monthly accountability reports visit [www.cityofpsl.com/salestax](http://www.cityofpsl.com/salestax)

