



City of Port St. Lucie

Dear PSL,

This past November, voters in Port St. Lucie and all of St. Lucie County answered many questions at the ballot box, including Question #14, which asked if St. Lucie County should levy a half-cent local option sales tax for ten years in order to fund projects to improve local roads, reduce traffic congestion, add sidewalks and improve local water quality.

I have to confess that I had no idea how this question was going to be answered. On one hand, the proposal featured a strong project list, employed every possible safeguard and had real support in the community. On the other, it was still a tax. Was it going to squeak by? Was it going to lose in a landslide? Inquiring minds wanted to know; and I don't know about you, but the suspense was killing me. When the results came in, I almost couldn't believe it. Whereas, two years ago, a similar proposal went down in flames 53 to 47 percent, losing in almost every precinct. This time, the opposite happened. It was approved 56 to 44 percent with only three of the County's 64 voting precincts opposed. A definitive majority had answered the sales tax question in the affirmative.

The City Council and I cannot thank you, the voters, supporters and education campaign volunteers enough. Please know that we are grateful for your willingness to invest in our future and that we do not take that investment or your underlying trust lightly. We are not going to let you down. In 10 years or less, there will be sidewalks on all of Port St. Lucie's major roadways, our streets will be repaved like clockwork, we will improve St. Lucie West Boulevard, reconstruct Floresta Drive, and complete all of the approved projects (a complete list can be found here: www.cityofpsl.com/salestax).

Our team has already sprung into action, forming an internal working group called the STAT (Sales Tax Action Team). The Team presented a schedule and funding plan that was approved by the City Council this past Tuesday (please see the attached files). It is important to note that the City's existing repaving and sidewalk master plans will be undergoing a series of amendments over the next couple of years as projects are expedited based upon sales tax collections. It will take two years to really ramp up, but then the difference is going to be substantial. Additionally, the City Council and I have already acted on our oversight pledge, approving a Resolution that creates the Port St. Lucie Sales Tax Citizen Oversight Committee. If you are interested in serving on this seven-member committee, please submit an application to the City Clerk's Office. Applications can be found on the City's website or by calling (772) 871-5157.

Whether you want to be in the thick of it by serving the Oversight Committee or just want to monitor our progress from afar, please bookmark our dedicated webpage for all things sales tax: www.cityofpsl.com/salestax. It should get an upgrade in the next week or so.

We want you to stay involved and, ultimately, to be proud of our community's progress. Again, thank you for investing in our community's future. Because of you, an even better PSL is now under construction!

Sincerely,

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec