



VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

2023 ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

The arguments for or against a ballot proposition are the opinions of the authors.

Polling hours are 7:00am to 8:00pm at 25 N Main Street, Heber UT, 84032. For voter information visit: <https://vote.utah.gov/> or <https://www.wasatch.utah.gov/clerk>.

Above websites include information about the location of polling places including any changes. For questions call, (435) 657-3190.

Description:

Proposition #9 represents a sales tax applied to most retail transactions within Wasatch County excluding gas and grocery purchases. It is estimated that the sales tax of 0.5% would generate \$6 million. Of this amount, current estimates place 46% of these funds being generated by non-resident payers.

The uses of these funds is restricted to supporting the operation of Emergency Medical Services through expenses like staff, equipment, infrastructure, and other expenses.

Proposition #9 Text:

Shall Wasatch County, Utah be authorized to impose a 0.5% sales and use tax for the purpose of funding emergency medical services in Wasatch County?

For

Against

Argument **FOR** Proposition #9:

All of us are aware of the rapid growth in Wasatch County whether it is from sitting at a stop light or counting school buses. This growth pressures the taxpayers to build schools, fire stations, buy ambulances, and staff up to meet the increases in demand associated with growth. A very important source of the increase in demand from services is from non-residents such as skiers who don't own property in Wasatch County.

Fire and EMS (Emergency Management Services) are largely funded through property taxes. Two additional sources of revenue are fees for service and impact fees on new construction. Both revenue sources lessen the pressure to raise property taxes but the rapid increase in service calls will necessitate additional stations plus the equipment and staff to serve the community. This will be tens of millions of dollars to meet the needs.

The Utah State Legislature has now authorized an EMS sales tax that Wasatch County is eligible to implement. The sales tax would basically exclude most food, fuel, and prescription medications. Unlike a property tax or an income tax, you have some direct control over how much you pay. That is a result of your consumption decisions. The proposed tax is 0.5% which is half a cent on \$1 and 5 cents on \$10. Another feature of the sales tax is that it spreads the total tax burden to include non-residents who still require the services. This lessens the pressure to raise property taxes.

It is important to understand that all the choices have costs including the cost of not meeting the critical service needs. The proposed sales tax will lessen the pressure to raise property taxes and provide critical funding so that services can continue at a satisfactory level.

Sponsor:

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