



What has the rest of the state done? Dallas County passed a one cent local option sales tax 2 years ago. 97% of the communities in the state have already passed a local option sales tax. What's Des Moines' story?

In recent years, the City of Des Moines has had a budgetary crisis and services were cut. The budget is primarily based on property tax revenue, along with miscellaneous sources. 40% of properties are tax exempt in Des Moines, so city revenue is based on the remaining 60% of properties.

In an effort to expand revenue for the City, other sources of income have been considered. A year ago, the local option sales tax could not be implemented. As a result, property taxes had to be increased 20 cents/\$1000 property valuation to maintain services.

This year the 1 cent local option sales tax is being considered again. There has been considerably more input from residents on how the funds should be spent. AMOS talked to over 500 citizens to find out what they thought – **“What matters enough to you that you'd raise your own taxes to see it happen?”**

The results are in. Public Measure A investment in our neighborhoods and families is impressive.

**Critical Infrastructure Improvements** to improve our neighborhoods and make Des Moines a better place to live and visit.

- Road and bridge improvements and repairs
- Sewer and storm sewer improvements to reduce the impacts of flooding throughout the city
- Fund our first responders while improving emergency response times throughout Des Moines
- A fully staffed new Fire Station on the NE side of Des Moines

**Property tax relief for Des Moines** - 50% of sales tax revenue will be dedicated to property tax relief

- It will reduce Des Moines' reliance on property taxes
  - If Public Measure A is passed, the 20 cent increase from last year will be removed and the property tax levy will be reduced by another 40 cents.
  - The income produced from the local option sales tax will delay future property tax increases, reduce city debt and preserve core city services.
  - If the March 5 vote does not pass, Des Moines will have to raise property taxes \$1.50/\$1000.
  - Groceries, prescriptions, gasoline and utilities are **exempted** from the Local Option Sales Tax, **helping reduce the impact on lower-income families.**
  - **33% of the revenue** generated by the Local Option Sales Tax will come from **visitors from out of town.**
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- All spending will be subject to oversight, public notice and audit.

### **Additional benefits**

- Expansion of the “Blitz on Blight” to help remove properties that have fallen into disrepair and/or have been abandoned. Currently the city can remove 7-15 properties per year, with Public Measure A the city can remove nearly 150 per year.
- Expansion of requirements on rental housing, including the addition of 4-6 inspectors to work throughout the city neighborhoods to inspect rental properties and protect public safety.
- Restore library hours. All libraries would be open till 8 PM and Saturdays. Two libraries would be open on Sundays. Library access is critical for access to educational/vocational services, learning opportunities, the internet and many other public services.
- **Support for mobile crisis services for youth and provide mental health services.**

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*Remember, if you want **Amazon to donate to National Alliance On Mental Illness of Greater Des Moines**, you need to **start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1333379>**. You need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.*

*Choose: **National Alliance on Mental Illness of Greater Des Moines***

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