

JASPER COUNTY ROAD REPAIR & GREENBELT (WATER AND LAND PROTECTION) SALES AND USE TAX REFERENDUM NOVEMBER 5, 2024



**YES OR NO, THE
DECISION IS
YOURS, JASPER
COUNTY VOTERS.**

**VOTE EARLY OR ON
ELECTION DAY**

You may vote at your precinct from 7 AM to 7 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. All are eligible to vote early from Monday, October 21 to Saturday November 2 except Sunday Oct 27, from 8:30 AM to 6 PM.

Early voting is at the Jasper County Elections Office, 1506 Grays Highway, Unit A in Ridgeland or at the Hardeeville Library Community Room, 30 Main Street, Hardeeville.

**JASPER COUNTY
QUESTIONS 1&2 ARE AT THE END
OF YOUR BALLOT**

What is Proposed in Question 1?

- 1% sales tax on most retail purchases (excludes rent/mortgage, fuel, prescriptions, medical supplies, some foods)
- 15-year authorization
- 80% to transportation purposes, or \$376 million
- 20% to greenbelt (land and water protection) purposes, or \$94 million
- County will seek private, state and federal matching funds
- All expenditures are subject to full public disclosure
- Jointly appointed oversight board representing County, Hardeeville, Ridgeland, School District

What is Proposed in Question 2?

Approval to bond \$150 million of funds from Question 1 to build some projects sooner

JASPER COUNTY SPECIAL SALES AND USE TAX

QUESTION 1

I approve a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent (1%) to be imposed in Jasper County for not more than fifteen (15) years to fund the following projects:

Projects:

Project (1) Using eighty percent (80%) of the referenced tax financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects, including drainage facilities related thereto: \$376,000,000.

Project (2) Using twenty percent (20%) of the referenced tax for financing the costs of greenbelt projects (including but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors): \$94,000,000.

YES

NO

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of levying the special sales and use tax shall vote "YES;" and

All qualified electors opposed to levying the special sales and use tax shall vote "NO."

QUESTION 2

I approve the issuance of not exceeding \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds of Jasper County, payable from the special sales and use tax described in Question 1 above, maturing over a period not to exceed 15 years, to fund any of the projects from among the categories described in Question 1 above.

YES

NO

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "YES;" and all qualified electors opposed to the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "NO."

HOW WERE PRIORITIES FOR ROADS DETERMINED?

Roads were prioritized based on factors including pavement conditions, safety concerns, amount of use, congestion, and anticipated state and federal matching funds.

HOW CAN I GET MORE ROAD DETAILS?

By Ordinance O-2024-16 adopted on July 24, 2024, Jasper County approved projects to be implemented as part of the referendum. Additional detail is provided in the ordinance, available on the County website.

HOW WILL LAND AND WATER PROTECTION PROJECTS BE CHOSEN?

The Lowcountry of South Carolina has several established Greenbelt and Greenspace programs, such as in Beaufort, Dorchester, Berkeley and Charleston Counties. All have set priorities for natural land, water protection and outdoor recreation projects. Jasper County will adopt a Greenbelt Plan with broad public input. One goal will be to match available private, state and federal funds. The public will be able to propose projects.

Road Repair and Land and Water Protection (Greenbelt) Proposed Projects and Estimated Capital Costs

S-442 (Argent Boulevard) (from US 278 to SC 170): 4-lane divided or 5-lane widening with multi-use paths on both sides for approximately 3.8 miles and would be coordinated with the SC 170 Widening and Access Management project (\$57,000,000).

US 278 Corridor Phase 1 (Beaufort County Line to Argent Blvd): 6-lane road widening for approximate 1 mile (\$15,000,000).

US 278 Corridor Phase 2 (Argent Blvd to I-95): 6-lane road widening for approximately 4.75 miles with two bridges (approx. 360 LF and 90 LF) (\$50,000,000).

SC 46/SC 170/SC 315 Intersection Improvements and Widening: assume 1 mile widening with intersection improvements at SC 46 and SC 170 to potentially combine into 1 intersection (\$30,000,000).

US 17/US 321 Intersection Improvement: skewed intersection in Hardeeville and may contain complicated right of way acquisition, assumes existing bridge over railroad can remain (\$4,000,000).

US 17 Widening (SC 315 to SC 170): 4-lane divided widening for approximately 2 miles (\$24,000,000).

SC 315 Widening from SC 170/SC 46 intersection to US 17: 4-lane/5-lane widening for approximately 6 miles (\$41,500,000).

SC 336 Intersection Improvements (Grahamville Rd to SC 336): potential realignment of SC 336 for approximately 0.3 mile and potential for complicated R/W acquisition: (\$5,000,000).

I-95 Exit 18 Interchange with US 17, Bees Creek Road, and Glover Road Improvements: Upgraded interchange included with SCDOT I-95 project from MM 8 to MM 21. Project would include road improvements to US 17, Bees Creek Road, and Glover Road (\$12,000,000).

I-95 Exit 22 Connector (US 278 to Bees Creek Road): new road with potential new bridge over I-95, dependent upon alignment and SCDOT's improvements for Exit 22 for approximate 3 miles: (\$36,000,000).

Glover Road (Bees Creek Road (S-13) to SC 462): Dirt road and paved road improvement – assume 2 lanes with R/W purchase for future widening (\$26,000,000).

US 278/SC 652 (Calf Pen Bay Road) Intersection Improvement: A traditional intersection improvement on US 278 has been installed with left turn lane and right turn onto SC 652, but improvements were not incorporated on SC 652. Turn lanes with improved intersection realignment should be considered or a roundabout should be installed as this could be a key intersection for traffic calming for entrance to Ridgeland: (\$2,000,000).

SC 462 (SC 170 to Snake Road): 4-lane divided or 5-lane widening for approximately 3 miles and safety improvements for approximately 5 miles (\$56,000,000).

US 17/Mackay Point Road Intersection: Realignment of S-27-37 to eliminate skewed intersection with Mackay Point Road and may involve improved access management on US 17, dependent on coordination with SCDOT, assume 0.6-mile realignment and intersection improvement: (\$5,000,000).

US 321/SC 336 Intersection Improvement: skewed intersection in Tillman (\$2,500,000).

Reconstruction of Levy Road: (\$10,000,000).

Greenbelt Initiatives: \$94,000,000 for financing greenbelt initiatives (including but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors).



For Further Information on **Jasper County Referendum Questions 1&2** on Your November 5, 2024 Ballot, Please Contact: Andrew Fulghum, County Administrator, 843-717-3690

For Further Information on **Voting Locations, Times and Procedures**, Please Contact: Jeanine M. Bostick, Director, Elections and Voters Registration, 843-726-7709