

Derby Difference Sales Tax

FIRE & RESCUE

Overview

- Derby citizens will vote on the **Derby Difference Sales Tax** Sept. 25 through Oct. 8, 2013.
- This is not a tax increase.
- This It would replace the existing Library Sales Tax and keep the total tax rate in Derby exactly the same.

Why does Derby need a sales tax?

- The **Derby Difference Sales Tax** will enhance the quality of life for Derby residents and visitors by funding: 1. Construction of a new central park, a tournament-quality baseball/softball complex, and a dog park; 2. Additional emergency response personnel to improve response times in our growing community; and 3. Operating expenses for the Derby Public Library.
- Sales taxes are commonly used by local governments to fund operations. Derby already uses a sales tax to fund operations and maintenance costs of the library and Rock River Rapids.

How much of the proposed half-cent tax will go to Fire & Rescue?

- When \$100 is spent in Derby, 50 cents would go to improve Derby and 15 cents of that would fund fire personnel and equipment.
- Without this tax, the only viable way to enhance Derby Fire & Rescue's services is to increase property taxes or reduce spending on street maintenance or other important City services.

Why does Derby Fire & Rescue need more personnel and equipment?

- Additional personnel would improve emergency response times and improve safety.
- The current staff of 17 is smaller than the industry standard and smaller than staff in other Kansas cities of similar size like Dodge City (25 employees) and Hays (23 employees).
- Emergency response staffing is needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Covering necessary shifts with only 17 full-time staff is difficult. Typically, only four firefighters are on duty at any time.



- During the past five years, Derby Fire & Rescue staff's workload has increased 38% – and the city continues to grow.
- **Medical emergencies comprise 67% of staff workload.** Firefighters also respond to fires and traffic accidents, provide fire inspections of all commercial properties in Derby and offer public education.
- Personnel are most effective when they have proper equipment for medical rescue, safe fire fighting, and personal protection.



Learn more at www.derbyweb.com/salestax

Can Sedgwick County or others help?

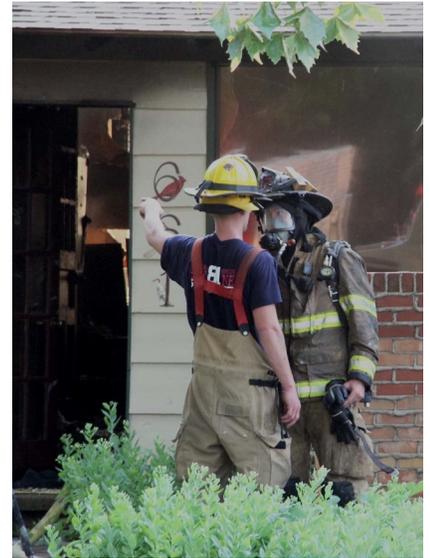
- Sedgwick County and Mulvane fire departments both assist Derby with fires, and Derby helps them too. This intergovernmental cooperation will continue, but Derby needs more personnel to handle local medical calls, traffic accidents, and other duties.

What about volunteer firefighters?

- Volunteers can sometimes help respond to building fires, such as the June 2013 fire at the MJB Heating and Cooling commercial building on K-15.
- Volunteers are not normally available for daily operations.
- Even with volunteer firefighters, Derby is still short-handed much of the time.

How quickly can Derby respond?

- Derby's goal is to respond within four minutes to 90% of all calls for service. In 2012, Derby firefighters arrived to 82% of calls in less than four minutes.
- More staff would mean that multiple calls could be worked by firefighters at the same time, which improves safety and reduces response times.



How busy is Derby Fire & Rescue?

- Derby firefighters respond to more than 2,000 calls each year, including hazardous substances, lost persons and medical rescues.

What about fire prevention and education?

Derby Fire & Rescue staff provide a variety of services including:

- Blood pressure checks at Derby Senior Center and stations
- Fire Safety and CPR classes
- Smoke detector and fire extinguisher education/installation
- Commercial property inspections

HOW DO I VOTE?

Registration

- Derby citizens may register to vote **now through Sept. 17** at the Derby Public Library, 1600 E. Walnut Grove Rd. or the Derby Welcome Center, 611 Mulberry. Call 788-9003 if you have questions.
- Citizens must re-register to vote if they've had a name change, change of address or changed party affiliation since the last election.



Voting

- **VOTE BY MAIL: Now through Oct. 4** citizens may request an advance ballot be mailed to them by completing the form "Application for Advance Voting Ballot" at: www.sedgwickcounty.org/elections and mail or fax it to the Sedgwick County Election Office.
- **ADVANCE VOTING IN WICHITA: Sept. 25, 26, 27, 30** and **Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **Oct. 7**, 8 a.m. to Noon at the Sedgwick County Election Office (historic courthouse), 510 N. Main in Wichita.
- **ADVANCE VOTING IN DERBY: Oct. 3 & 4**, from Noon to 7 p.m. and **Oct. 5** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Woodlawn United Methodist Church, 431 S. Woodlawn in Derby.
- **ELECTION DAY: Oct. 8** polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. On this day, voters must vote at their assigned polling site in Derby (Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Calvary Baptist Church or Pleasantview Baptist Church). Call 788-9003 for help in finding your polling site.

