

City of Sidney
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
About the 0.3% municipal taxable income tax
Election Day is May 7, 2019. Early voting begins April 9, 2019.



What is the issue on the May ballot for the City of Sidney?

The issue on the May 7th ballot is a 0.3% municipal taxable income tax levy for the City of Sidney. The 0.3% applies *only* to municipal taxable income for people who work or live in the City of Sidney. With voter approval, this will bring Sidney's income tax to 1.8%.

Why a municipal taxable income tax?

The City has a 0.25% municipal taxable income tax that will expire at the end of 2019. This 0.3% will not go into effect until 2020, when that issue ends. The 0.3% is the fairest way to address Sidney's needs, because:

- It will NOT tax Social Security, pensions, disability, 401Ks, or investment income.
- More than half (53%) will be paid by those who live outside Sidney, but work here and use city services.
- The average additional, annual investment for someone earning \$35,000 a year is \$17.50.
- The revenue from the 0.3% will be specifically restricted for a continuing period of time to city road work and the fire department – including the construction, operation, and maintenance of a third fire station:
 - Fifty percent will be dedicated for the purpose of construction; reconstruction; resurfacing and maintenance of streets, alleys, bridges, curbs and gutters within the City of Sidney.
 - Fifty percent will be dedicated for the purposes of fire department operations, capital improvements, equipment, maintenance, and repair.

Why is the 0.3% needed?

Residents have identified police and fire safety and infrastructure as top priorities. City leaders agree that to maintain and improve on the quality of life for Sidney residents – and to help attract developers and businesses to our city – these two important needs must be addressed:

- Providing high-quality emergency medical response and fire protection for all residents.
 - The fire department's call volume has reached historic highs and currently averages more than 11 calls per day.
- Completing needed repairs, repaving, and maintenance of Sidney streets citywide.
 - Since 2010, nearly 70 miles of city roads (about 60%) have been paved or micro-surfaced with the help of the municipal taxable income tax that expires at the end of 2019.

Without the 0.3%, Sidney will not be able to add a much-needed, third fire station or continue road improvements across the city.

Who will pay the 0.3%?

The 0.3% applies to all people working in Sidney – regardless of where they live – and working residents of Sidney. In fact, more than half (53%) will be paid by those who live outside the city, but work here and use city services. It only applies to municipal taxable income. It does not tax Social Security, pensions, investments, disability, or interest income.

Who gets to vote on this issue?

Residents of the City of Sidney who are active registered voters will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 0.3% municipal taxable income tax levy. People who live outside the city limits will not. Early voting begins April 9, 2019, and Election Day is May 7, 2019.