



# One-Half Cent Sales Tax for Okaloosa County

## **WHAT WAS ON THE BALLOT?**

In November 2018, voters in Okaloosa County decided on a one-half cent sales tax increase to fund vital improvements and infrastructure projects. These projects included law enforcement and public safety facilities, traffic reduction efforts, road and bridge maintenance, flood control, water quality improvements, and more.

## **WHO BORE THE SALES TAX BURDEN?**

This sales tax affected everyone, including citizens, property owners, and tourists. Notably, 56% of the revenue came from tourists. The tax applied only to the first \$5,000 of a single taxable item.

## **HOW WAS THE SALES TAX REVENUE DISTRIBUTED?**

The revenue was divided among cities based on their populations, with the majority going to Okaloosa County (66.51%). Other cities received allocations based on their population sizes.

## **WHERE DID THE GENERATED FUNDS GO?**

The funds were invested in Okaloosa County for critical infrastructure needs. These included law enforcement and public safety improvements, traffic flow enhancements, water quality initiatives, and the possibility of leveraging state and federal funds.

## **ENSURING RESPONSIBLE SPENDING**

A citizens' committee continues to oversee the projects to ensure government accountability.

## **DID OTHER COUNTIES HAVE A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX?**

Yes, 56 out of 67 Florida counties had similar taxes for infrastructure improvements, including neighboring counties like Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Bay Counties.

## **WHY WAS THIS NECESSARY?**

Okaloosa County had one of the lowest millage rates in the state, making this sales tax increase essential to fund critical improvements without raising property taxes.

## **WHEN DID THE VOTERS HAVE THEIR SAY?**

The referendum occurred on November 6, 2018.