

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPLOST 2020

Do you want to be taxed more in Clarke County?



A) This SPLOST* will raise your property taxes!
This will happen in three different ways:

1) Land will be purchased for these projects which will take it off of the tax digest meaning that the Athens-Clarke County budget will have to be funded by the smaller remaining tax digest. *Land purchased by SPLOST dollars will no longer have property taxes collected on it, meaning that taxes will have to be raised on the remaining property in order to collect the same amount of money.*

2) Facilities will be built that will have to be staffed and maintained. This will increase the operating budget which raises property taxes.

3) Retail businesses will be driven out of Clarke County thus increasing taxes on the remaining property owners. If this SPLOST passes then Clarke County sales tax rate will be 8% and the surrounding county's sales tax rate will be 7%. By simply moving across the county line a business will automatically be 1% lower than a business in Clarke County. In addition because property taxes will be higher their costs will be higher giving them even more reason to move out of the county.

For renters: You ARE paying property taxes, you just don't see them because they are built into your rent. Since landlords are not charities if taxes go up then rents will rise. Rental properties actually pay property taxes at a higher rate than owner occupied residential properties because the rental properties are not eligible for the homestead exemption.

B) This SPLOST* especially affects the poor and disadvantaged in our community.

1) Since the SPLOST does not exempt food, electricity, and other essentials and the fact that the poor and disadvantaged often have less ability to travel outside of the county to purchase items they are affected more by SPLOST than are the wealthier families.

2) The businesses most likely to be driven out of the County by this SPLOST are the type of businesses that are most likely to employ the poor and disadvantaged.

3) This SPLOST helps a only a few people at the expense of the many.

C) If this SPLOST* passes, most households will end up spending an additional \$100-\$300 per year in additional sales taxes or an additional \$1000-\$3000 in additional sales taxes over the life of this SPLOST.

1) Many voters will likely find a project or two that they support. They should ask themselves if, in the absence of this tax, would they be willing to donate \$1000- \$3000 towards those projects. If the answer is no then you should vote no for this SPLOST.

This is a new **Special Local Option SALES TAX** with a new set of projects. The old SPLOST is ending as mandated by law. Each SPLOST stands on its own. If passed, consumers will pay an 8% sales tax on every taxable item purchased in Clarke County.

“This is nothing more than asking the poor to pay for the hobbies of the rich.”

This sales tax referendum will be voted on November 5, 2019