



Help Us, Help You Keep Johnson County SAFE



Frequently Asked Questions: Law Enforcement Sales Tax Ballot Question (PROPOSITION P)

First of all, the primary responsibility of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office is to keep the Citizen's safe and protect our future.

What is the Question on the April 2, 2019 ballot?

Voter approval of (Proposition P) would dedicate one-half of one percent sales tax, to be used for the purpose of providing funding to support current and future operations of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. By law, revenues generated by this sales tax would be used to fund the Agencies staffing shortages, improved personnel compensation, used for safety equipment, as well as future capital improvements of the facility.

How would the sales tax be used for law enforcement in Johnson County?

This sales tax fund will be used to fight the increasing criminal activities which plague our county. Beginning with the budget year 2020 the revenue generated by Proposition P would provide additional Sheriff's Office personnel and help fill seven existing vacancies. The Sheriff's Office has been known as a "Training Ground" for other Law Enforcement Agencies. The Sheriff's Office is not retaining experienced people and is having a difficult time attracting new employees because of compensation deficiencies. Below are the current salaries for newly hired personnel within our Agency.

Current Starting salary:

Civilian Detention Officer	\$10.80 per hour,	Annual: \$22,464.00
Commissioned Deputy	\$11.80 per hour,	Annual: \$24,544.00

Both of the salaries listed above do not meet the minimum wage voted into law by Missouri Voters in November of last year. Although Governmental agencies are exempt from the minimum wage law, this does have an indirect affect on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. If we do not take action to improve the salaries of the individuals who are protecting the citizens of our county, we will continue to lose qualified Deputies not only to other Law Enforcement Agencies, but we will also lose them to other industries simply because they are paying a higher wage.

Currently, Commissioned Deputies qualify for the State Supplemental Salary which takes their salary from \$24,544.00 (Agencies responsibility) to \$30,000.00 (supplemented by the State). This is a grant that the Sheriff's office has to apply for each year through Department of Public Safety (DPS) after meeting certain criteria. The Sheriff's Office has been able to give raises to all its employees each year since taking office in 2014, however, due to the salary cap

restrictions on the Supplemental Salary, any increase in pay to the Deputies goes to the salary base and not the overall gross salary. All the pay raise does, is reduce the amount of the State's contribution to the Deputies salary, therefore the deputies never see a pay raise until his base exceeds the Supplemental Salary cap. The goal of the Sheriff's Office is to get out from under the Supplemental Pay Grant simply because it could come to an end at any time. Unexpected loss of the Grant could result in reduction of vital personnel, which in the long run, could affect the quality of services our citizens need and deserve.

The Missouri Department of Corrections also owes Sheriff's Offices state wide nearly \$4 million in outstanding board bills. That being said, they owe Johnson County close to \$300,000.00 which is not being reimbursed do to State budget restraints. The loss of this repayment money has a detrimental impact not only on our 2019 budget of \$3,035,550.00, but also future annual budgets.

The current budget that the Sheriff's Office receives annually is made up of the money received from Contract Agencies that the Jail houses for, and a one half of one percent law enforcement sales tax that was passed in April of 1993. Of the sales tax collected, Johnson County Sheriff's Office only receives 55%, leaving the remaining 45% divided amongst the municipalities of our county.

With the vote of approval of Proposition P, the salaries could be adjusted as follows:

Civilian Detention Officer:	\$12.60 per hour	Annual: \$26,208.00
Commissioned Deputy:	\$15.68 per hour	Annual: \$32,614.40

This initiative will allow the Johnson County Sheriff's Office to pay its employees more than minimum wage which will make the Agency more competitive in the job market as well as the rest of the law enforcement agencies in our area. The higher wages will not only help the employees and their families but will help with retention and the hiring of qualified officers.

Why is additional funding for Sheriff's Office Needed?

Not only will the initiative help fill the existing vacancies but the funding will allow for additional staffing. The initiative will allow us to budget for four additional jailers, two additional investigators, and four additional road deputies.

The number of road deputies is the same today as it was 10-15 years ago. We have 16 Deputies assigned to the Road, with 5 assigned to the Detective Division. These officers are providing safety and security for an 824 sq mile county as well as responding to calls in the municipalities within Johnson County that do not have 24/7 law enforcement service.

Out of the 16 Deputies, there is only one deputy who is assigned to teaching D.A.R.E for seven of the eight School Districts. Currently the Sheriff's Office does not have the resources to keep up with the demands of law enforcement, let alone providing the proper care and security for the eight school districts in the county as well as the Johnson County Christian Academy. The initiative will allow us to add more deputies out in the communities so the Agency can be more proactive which results in providing a safer and more secured school environment for the students, teachers and citizens throughout Johnson County.

The increased number of Deputies as well as the two additional Detectives, the Sheriff's Office will improve the service to the Courts and Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The additional personnel will greatly benefit the Judicial System in the areas of Drug Court and the State Wide Initiative for Alternative Sentencing, by giving them the manpower for compliance and monitoring enforcement. The increased assistance to the Prosecutor's Office will ensure the cases sent to the Prosecutor are complete, factual and thorough so they can be successfully prosecuted in court if prosecution is warranted.

Prior to 2011, the Johnson County Jail was located in Warrensburg and consisted of a 60 inmate capacity confined to one structure. The personnel assigned to that facility was limited to 15 Detention Officers. In 2012, the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center was moved to its current location. With the relocation, the facility increased the inmate capacity to 200 with the maximum capacity to 220 inmates confined within five structures. The current staffing level of the Detention Center and Court Security Division is 45 officers. The current officer on-duty per shift is four officers and one controller. The initiative would allow the Sheriff's Office to add four additional jailers which improve the staff/inmate ratio (based on 160 inmate average) to 27 inmates to one deputy.

What are other needs that will be supported by Proposition P?

Along with providing safety and security of the citizens of Johnson County, the safety and security of the Deputies is a must. The initiative will not only allow the Sheriff's Office to update/repair/maintain the infrastructure at the facility (roofs, plumbing, as well as heating and cooling systems), but will also allow for updating our radio communication system to the (MOSWIN) Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network. Officer safety equipment such as in-car and body worn video systems will be purchased and utilized. These systems will assist the agency with enhancing officer safety, supplementing and supporting written police reports, and the collection of evidence for use in the prosecution of violators of the law.

What is the revenue expected from the Proposition P?

The estimated revenue that the one-half of one percent sales tax initiative is \$2,600,000.00 per year.

Who pays for the sales tax?

Unlike property taxes that are paid by residents of Johnson County, sales tax is paid by residents and non-residents through the purchase of goods (from a gallon of milk to building materials) within the County boundaries.

What happens should Proposition P fail?

Without additional funding for the Sheriff's Office, several consequences will occur in Johnson County. Not only will the Sheriff's Office continue to have issues retaining experienced people and a difficult time attracting new employees because of compensation deficiencies. Johnson County is likely to see an increase in crime. Property values will decrease, neighborhoods will deteriorate, and the safe quality of life in Johnson County will be in danger.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about Proposition P, please free to contact me.
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Scott Munsterman, Sheriff