

Johnson County, Missouri

April 6, 2021 General Municipal Election Proposition A

This document provides a general summary and is for information / educational purposes only. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it constitute advice on the issues and / or Proposition A in any way.

PROPOSITION A

“Shall Johnson County impose a countywide sales tax of one-eighth (1/8) of one percent (1%), for the purpose of providing funding to the general revenue of the county for purposes to include, but not limited to operations and maintenance of an animal shelter, to expire on December 31, 2026?”

YES NO

If you are in favor of the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “YES”. If you are opposed to the question, place an “X” in the box opposite “NO”.

Animal Shelter—Background

In August 2020, Warrensburg City Council voted to no longer fund and therefore close the existing (Old Drum) Animal Shelter which has been in operation through the City of Warrensburg since 1990. The Warrensburg Animal Rescue, a non-profit organization, has agreed to provide services through December 31, 2021 by a joint agreement among the Warrensburg Animal Rescue, the City of Warrensburg, and the County of Johnson. Currently, the animal shelter does not have a dedicated revenue stream to allow for continued and uninterrupted services beyond December 31, 2021. The County Commission agreed to place Proposition A on the ballot where Johnson County voters can determine whether or not to financially support the continuation of animal shelter services.

Animal Shelter—Current Operation Overview

Animal Shelter Budget: The 2021 budgeted cost of the animal shelter services is over \$330,000. Warrensburg Animal Rescue has been fundraising and providing fee based services to continue operating the animal shelter. After they raised \$100,000, the City of Warrensburg and County of Johnson each agreed to provide a \$100,000 one-time match for 2021 operations.

Animal Shelter Services: County and City law enforcement may use animal shelter services, such as receiving and housing animals, and quarantining animals at no costs. Johnson County residents may use animal shelter services, though some fees may apply. Old Drum Animal Shelter is a “No Kill” facility that utilizes networking with other rescues and a foster program. The Animal Shelter does not currently provide “animal control” services by collecting animals throughout the county.

Animal Shelter Location: Currently, there is a lease agreement with the City of Warrensburg and Warrensburg Animal Rescue to use the existing City animal shelter facility at 35 SW 101st Road, Warrensburg.

Proposition A—Ballot Language

Why is the animal shelter a Johnson County issue?

Johnson County Commission sees the value in all Johnson County residents having access to animal shelter services.

Can the animal shelter be supported solely by fundraising?

While community support and current fundraising efforts have been exceptional, a dedicated revenue stream provides an opportunity for continued uninterrupted services.

Can the County fund the animal shelter with existing tax money?

The County does not have additional funds in reserve to support the operations and maintenance of an animal shelter. Current sales and property taxes are dedicated to maintenance of existing county property, roads, and services already provided by Johnson County.

What is Proposition A?

Please see ballot language included above.

Why does Proposition A expire on December 31, 2026?

The sales tax would expire to allow Johnson County voters the opportunity to determine if they want the tax to continue after five years. This ensures voters have an ongoing voice in the taxes they pay.

Why does the ballot language say general revenue?

There are a number of types of sales tax that may be submitted to the voters, for example, law enforcement, capital improvements, and general revenue. Proposition A is a sales tax proposed for the purpose of providing general revenue to the county including to fund operations and maintenance of an animal shelter.

Can the Proposition A language be changed?

No. The deadline to submit April 6, 2021 ballot language was January 26, 2021 by 5:00 p.m.

Proposition A
Animal Shelter Financial Questions

Who pays for the sales tax generated, should Proposition A pass?

Unlike property taxes which are paid solely by property owners in the County, sales tax is paid by residents and non-residents through the purchase of goods and services (such as milk, building supplies, clothing, etc.) within the County boundaries.

Will my property taxes be impacted, should Proposition A pass?

No. Property taxes will not be impacted by Proposition A.

How much should I expect to pay, should Proposition A pass?

Sales tax would increase \$0.25 for every \$200.00 spent for the purchase of goods and services beginning October 1, 2021.

What revenue is expected, should Proposition A pass?

The estimated revenue from one-eighth of one percent sales tax is \$625,000-\$700,000 per year.

Why is the expected revenue higher than the 2021 budget, should Proposition A pass?

One-eighth of one percent is the lowest rate of sales tax that can be requested.

Is the animal shelter budget expected to change for 2022, should proposition A pass?

It is uncertain how expansion of services to all county residents will impact the 2022 budget.

What happens to the tax funds collected that aren't used for that year's operational budget, should Proposition A pass?

Any additional tax monies collected over and above the amounts allocated for the annual budget will be carried over to the next budget year as is the practice for all funds in the County budget.

How would the sales tax generated be used, should Proposition A pass?

The sales tax would be used for general revenue purposes of the county, to include, but not limited to operations and maintenance of the animal shelter, such as staffing, day-to-day operations, ongoing maintenance, and potential expansion.

Proposition A
Animal Shelter Services Questions

What happens, should Proposition A fail?

Without a dedicated revenue source for the animal shelter, the non-profit organization will need to secure other revenues to cover annual operating expenses; or animal shelter services will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2022.

Is the County going to run the animal shelter, should Proposition A pass?

The County is not going to run the animal shelter. The County intends to contract with an entity (not-for profit, public entity, or business) to provide animal shelter services .

What services will the animal shelter provide, should Proposition A pass?

Currently the shelter serves strays, nuisance animals, surrendered, and lost and found pets. In addition to adoption and fostering, there is a barn cat program and dog's day out home stays. Community events include volunteering, field trips, and youth education services. The shelter would like to eventually expand services to include behavior training, spay and neuter events, pet food pantry, low-cost vaccination, microchipping and outdoor shelter builds.

What services will the animal shelter not provide?

The animal shelter will not provide breeding, boarding, public veterinary services, or issue citations.

Where will the animal shelter be located, should Proposition A pass?

The current plan is to extend the lease agreement with the City of Warrensburg and Warrensburg Animal Rescue to use the existing City shelter facility at 35 SW 101st Road, Warrensburg.

What happens to the sales tax funds if animal shelter operations cease, should Proposition A pass?

If the current animal shelter organization ceases to operate the shelter and no other organization or entity contracts to run it, the tax will not be renewed upon expiration. Any monies remaining in the Animal Shelter fund would remain in the county budget for general revenue uses.

The opportunity for Johnson County to vote on Proposition A is 6:00 AM-7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 in the General Municipal Election. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the Johnson County Commission at 660-747-2121.

William H. Gabel, Presiding Commissioner

John L. Marr, Eastern Commissioner

Charles Kavanaugh, Western Commissioner