

## What is the proposal?

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The proposal is a **1/8-cent** sales tax to help fund public safety in Greene County. That's a **nickel on a \$40 purchase**.

Because 1/8-cent of the countywide Parks Sales Tax expires in 2012, customers in Greene County will pay **no increase in the total sales tax** at the register.

An estimated **40% of sales tax is paid by out-of-county residents** who work and shop in Springfield and Greene County.

The proposal is estimated to generate an additional **\$5 million** annually for Greene County's public safety system. Revenue may **only be used for Greene County law enforcement and criminal justice**. 100% of funds will go to the Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile Office, Jail and Pre-Trial Services.

This proposal will fund only about 15% of the total need to bring Greene County's criminal justice system up to regional and national standards. **It is the minimum needed to keep Greene County from losing more ground** in fighting crime, processing criminal cases and helping victims of child abuse and neglect.

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**"Our public safety and criminal justice system is overburdened and under-funded... Our community must decide which is more important: low taxes or adequate public funding."**

— **Safety & Justice Roundtable  
Final Report, July 22, 2009**

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## April 3, 2012 Ballot Language:

Shall the County of Greene impose an additional countywide sales tax of one-eighth (1/8) of one (1) percent for the purpose of providing law enforcement services for the County?

Yes  No

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### Greene County Sheriff's Office

Jim Arnott, Sheriff  
1010 N. Boonville Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417-868-4040

### Greene County Prosecutor's Office

Dan Patterson, Prosecuting Attorney  
1010 N. Boonville Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417-868-4061

### Greene County Commission

Jim Viebrock, Presiding Commissioner  
Harold Bengsch, District 1 Commissioner  
Roseann Bentley, District 2 Commissioner  
933 N. Robberson Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417-868-4112

Tim Smith, County Administrator  
417-868-4873

**E-mail Greene County by visiting  
[www.greencountymo.org/contact](http://www.greencountymo.org/contact)**

Paid for by the Greene County Sheriff's Office  
Produced January 29, 2012

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## Greene County



## Public Safety Initiative

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Election Date:

**April 3, 2012**

Greene County voters will decide on a  
proposal for a

## 1/8 cent sales tax

**Funds will be used to help  
keep Greene County safe by:**

- Improving Sheriff's patrol response times
- Adding criminal investigators
- Increasing jail capacity
- Solving and disposing of criminal cases faster
- Addressing child abuse and neglect

## What is the need?

- In order to keep up with the increasing demands on law enforcement as revenue has decreased, **budgets** for all other services funded from County general revenue have had to be **cut by \$3.3 million or 21.4%** since 2008.
- Greene County's population has grown by 32% since 1990, yet **Greene County still has the same number of patrol deputies as in 1990.**
- Average sheriff's deputy **response time is 13 minutes - 15% longer** than in 2008. Deputies cannot rely on quick backup when pursuing criminals.
- **Violent crime** within Greene County has **increased 26.3%** since 2008.
- **Sheriff's detectives cannot keep up** with the growing number of criminal investigations. Detectives focus on violent crimes. Burglaries, vehicle break-ins and other property crime investigations are pushed back.
- The 11-year-old Greene County Jail has capacity for 522 inmates, but is only staffed to house 372. Because of limited capacity, **many inmates are booked and released to make room for more serious offenders.** Among those typically released are those charged with **burglary, theft, assault, DWI, drug possession and low-level sex offenses.**
- Since 1998, the **number of felonies charged in Greene County has increased by 192%. Felony caseloads have increased by 70%.** Meanwhile, the Prosecutor's Office staff has decreased since 2009.
- **Child abuse and neglect increased by 33%** from 2009 to 2011, and continues to rise. Nearly 1,000 children are now under the care of Greene County Juvenile Court.

## Who benefits?

### All Greene County residents:

Including residents of Springfield, Republic, Willard and all of the nine cities in the County. Greene County's **Criminal Justice System** - Courts, Jail, Prosecutor's Office, and Juvenile Office - serves **all residents** of the county.

### Children and youth:

Juvenile services = prevention. Today's victims of child abuse and neglect are at high risk of becoming adult offenders. Additional Juvenile Office staff is needed to keep up with rising child abuse and neglect rates, and to help move kids from foster care to either parental reunification or adoption.

### County residents:

Additional patrol deputies mean response times will improve by at least 25% for incidents occurring outside city limits.

### Victims of crime:

Justice delayed is justice denied. More detectives, prosecutors and support staff mean reducing critical time for investigations to be completed. Criminals can be brought to justice more quickly.

"Our community is at a crossroads - a critical turning point where difficult decisions must be made, now. These decisions will have a profound effect on whether Springfield and Greene County remain an attractive place for business and a place where people know their homes and families are safe."

Report to the Safety & Justice Roundtable  
August 8, 2011

## What is included?

**STAFF:** \$4,148,000/year

### Sheriff's Office

- 18 Patrol Deputies
- 6 Detectives
- 40 Correctional Officers (Jail)
- 1 Registered Nurse (Jail)
- 10 Support Staff
- 2 Court Security Officers

### Prosecutor's Office

- 5 Assistant Prosecutors
- 1 Paralegal/Investigator
- 2 Victim Witness Advocates
- 2 Support Staff

### Juvenile Office

- 7 Deputy Juvenile Officers
- 2 Probation Officers
- 1 Attorney
- 3 Support Staff

### Pre-Trial Services

- 2 Pre-Trial Officers

**BUILDING SPACE:** \$400,000/year

- Remodel jail to add 50 to 75 minimum-security beds
- Improve Juvenile Courtroom to meet new security requirements
- Add office space to relieve overcrowding and privacy concerns in the Juvenile Office

**OPERATIONS/EQUIPMENT:** \$415,000/year

**CONTINGENCY:** \$37,000/year

**TOTAL: \$5 million per year**