


TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: James L. Bennett, County Attorney 

SUBJECT: Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax ("Surtax")
Ballot Language

DISTRIBUTION: Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator

DATE: November 19, 2013

Based on further research, as well as comments received on the ordinance included with Agenda Item No. 24(a), the following issues should be considered by the Board of County Commissioners as part of the discussion granting authority to advertise the public hearing:

1. Ballot Title/Question (attached)
 - Option 1 – staff ordinance version
 - Option 2 – staff ordinance version with revisions based on comments/research
 - Option 3 – PSTA version
 - Option 4 – to be determined
2. Ordinance provides that if funding for passenger rail is not timely received, the County Commission may reduce the amount of the levy to a sum sufficient to fund bus service.
3. Ordinance provides that issuance of bonds, notes, or other obligations pledging the surtax proceeds requires prior approval of the Board of County Commissioners.
4. Ordinance provides that the levy may be repealed by ordinance approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Attachments

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Title: Levy of One-Percent Sales Surtax to Fund Greenlight Pinellas Plan for Countywide Public Transit.

Summary: Shall Pinellas County levy a countywide one-percent sales surtax from January 1, 2016, until repealed or reduced by county ordinance to plan, develop, construct, operate, maintain and finance public transit countywide with regional connections, including expanded bus service, bus rapid transit, and future passenger rail service?

_____ FOR the 1% sales surtax

_____ AGAINST the 1% sales surtax

Title: Levy of Countywide One-Percent Sales Surtax to Fund Greenlight Pinellas Plan for ~~Countywide~~ Public Transit.

Summary: Shall Pinellas County levy a countywide one-percent sales surtax from January 1, 2016, until repealed ~~or reduced by~~ county ordinance that will be deposited into a dedicated trust fund and applied to improving to plan, develop, construct, operatinge, maintaining and financinge public transit countywide with regional connections, including expanded bus service, bus rapid transit, and ~~future~~local passenger rail service?

_____ YES, ~~FOR~~for the 1% sales surtax

_____ NO, ~~AGAINST~~against the 1% sales surtax

Title: Levy of Countywide One-Percent Sales Surtax to Fund Greenlight Pinellas Plan for Public Transit.

Summary: Shall Pinellas County levy a countywide one-percent sales surtax from January 1, 2016, until repealed by county ordinance that will be deposited into a dedicated trust fund and applied to improving, operating, maintaining and financing public transit countywide with regional connections, including expanded bus service, bus rapid transit, and local passenger rail service?

_____ YES, for the 1% sales surtax

_____ NO, against the 1% sales surtax

Title: Levy of Countywide One-Percent Sales Surtax to Fund Greenlight Pinellas Plan for Public Transit.

Summary: Shall the improvement, operation, maintenance and financing of public transit benefitting Pinellas County, including an expanded bus system with bus rapid transit, increased frequency and extended hours, local passenger rail and regional connections be funded by levying a one-percent sales surtax from January 1, 2016, until repealed, with the proceeds initially deposited in a dedicated trust fund?

_____ YES

_____ NO