

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Intent for Election on November 2, 2021
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to call for an Election on November 2, 2021 for consideration of a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for capital projects totaling \$400 million and authorize the issuance of General Obligation Sales Tax bonds in an amount not to exceed \$200 million in connection with the imposition of the SPLOST
INITIATED BY:	City Manager's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to call for an Election on November 2, 2021 for consideration of a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for capital projects totaling \$400 million and authorize the issuance of General Obligation Sales Tax bonds in connection with the imposition of the SPLOST.

Background: On July 23, 2019 by Resolution #199-19, City Council expressed the intent to pursue a SPLOST in 2020. Public meetings were held to receive input from citizens on potential projects to be included on a SPLOST ballot in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic hit in the early part of 2020 and City Council decided to delay the SPLOST vote in 2020 and defer to 2021. The discussion of the project list was re-introduced in early 2021. The project list was compiled and presented to City Council based on all input received. Public meetings were held on June 14, 17, and 21, 2021 which were televised live on CCG-TV. A comment card was provided at the public meetings as well as available on the city's website.

Analysis: The total project list totals \$400 million to include the issuance of General Obligation Sales Tax bonds in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to fund the Judicial Center. All other projects included on the list will be pay as you go. The collection time is estimated at 10 years but will continue until the \$400 million is collected. The current sales tax rate in Columbus is 8%. If approved, the SPLOST would begin on April 1, 2022 and the sales tax rate would be 9% for 9 months. The regional Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax expires in December 2022, at which time the sales tax would go back to 8% unless the voters of Columbus and region choose to renew the TSPLOST.

Financial Considerations: The SPLOST would provide the funds to address capital project needs throughout Columbus.

Legal Considerations: The Resolution has been approved by the City Attorney's Office.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to call for an Election on November 2, 2021 for consideration of a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for capital projects totaling \$400 million and authorize the issuance of General Obligation Sales Tax bonds in an amount not to exceed \$200 in connection with the imposition of the SPLOST.