



# Administration

To: City Commission

From: City Administrator Dustin Dassinger

Date: 2/26/26

Subject: Public Safety Tax Call for Election

Commissioners,

The City of Dickinson initially adopted a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in 1990. In 2001, the City amended its sales and use tax ordinance to adopt an additional one-half percent (½%) sales and use tax.

The City of Dickinson operates under a Home Rule Charter, which authorizes the imposition of sales and use taxes. However, the Charter further requires that any additional sales and use tax must be approved by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the City prior to enactment.

Since the last sales tax amendment in 2001, the community's needs have significantly evolved. The Board of City Commissioners has identified increased and ongoing demands related to infrastructure, capital improvements, and particularly public safety.

The City now confronts a number of public safety projects that are necessary and beneficial to maintaining the continued health, safety, and vitality of Dickinson. The proposed Resolution would submit to the qualified electors of the City the question of imposing an additional one percent (1%) sales and use tax within the City of Dickinson. The additional one percent tax would be dedicated solely to funding public safety infrastructure and operations, including:

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Facilities
- Technology
- Capital improvements

The additional funding mechanism would provide a sustainable local revenue source to address both current and future public safety needs.

If approved by the City Commission, the Resolution provides that:



- The proposed additional one percent (1%) sales and use tax shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Dickinson at the regular primary election to be held on June 9, 2026.
- The Notice of Election, attached as Exhibit “A,” is approved and the City Administrator is directed to publish the Notice in the Dickinson Press, as required under applicable provisions of the City Code and North Dakota Century Code.
- The form of Ballot attached as Exhibit “B” is approved for use in the election on the proposed measure.
- The form Joint Powers Agreement attached as Exhibit “C” is approved.

The Resolution itself does not impose the tax, but authorizes submission of the question to the voters. If approved by the electorate, the additional one percent (1%) sales and use tax would generate dedicated revenue restricted to public safety infrastructure and operations.

City Administration recommends approval of the Resolution directing that the question of imposing an additional one percent (1%) sales and use tax for public safety purposes be submitted to the voters of the City of Dickinson at the June 9, 2026 primary election.



Dustin Dassinger

City Administrator

