



Frequently Asked Questions

Sales Tax Extension – A Community Investment June 2026

1. What is the 1% Sales Tax?

Under Florida Statute 212, counties, with voter approval, can increase the statewide 6% sales tax to 7% for infrastructure needs. The sales tax is applied to transactions subject to state tax. Food, medicine and certain services are not subject to sales tax. In addition, the 1% tax is levied only on the first \$5,000 of any purchase.

These monies can be used for a wide range of capital infrastructure expenses such as public safety vehicles, acquiring park or environmental land, or engineering, design and construction of any public facility with a life span of more than five years. Maintenance and operating costs are not eligible expenses, nor are reimbursements for prior land purchases.

2. Is this a new tax?

No, this is NOT a new tax. There will be no increase in the amount of sales tax you currently pay. This is a continuation of the existing Charlotte County 1% local option sales tax first approved in 1994. The referendum is asking that you extend the tax for an additional 20 years to fund needed infrastructure improvements.

3. Why a 20-year term?

A 20-year term for the 1% local option sales tax extension would enable the county to use bond financing to pay for projects rather than using the “pay as we go” policy previously used. Bond financing would enable the county to deliver more projects faster, lower construction cost inflation exposure, enable the county to seek matching grant funds and improve its long-term planning.

4. How does bond financing work?

The county would issue bonds through an underwriters, such as a bank or investment firm. The county would pay back the money on a regular basis using sales tax revenue. The county would pay interest to the underwriter in addition to the premium.

5. What are the advantages of using a sales tax?

It is a fair funding source paid by everyone, not just local property owners. Tourists and seasonal visitors contribute their fair share toward roads and sidewalks that improve the quality of life for everyone.

6. What projects would be funded if the local option sales tax were to be extended?

The list of projects was approved by the County Commission based on a review of capital needs and review by a citizen focus group. The project list can be found at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/salestax.

7. What will the referendum ballot language say?

TITLE

EXTENSION OF THE ONE PERCENT (1%) LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FROM JANUARY 1, 2027, TO DECEMBER 31, 2046.

QUESTION

SHOULD THE ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX BE EXTENDED FOR TWENTY YEARS FROM JANUARY 1, 2027, TO DECEMBER 31, 2046, WITH THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AS DEFINED BY LAW, INCLUDING PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND SCHOOLS?

FOR the one-cent sales tax
 AGAINST the one-cent sales tax

8. When would the extension of the existing local option sales tax go into effect?

The current sales tax expires on Dec. 31, 2026. The extension would begin on Jan. 1, 2027 and continue for 20

years to Dec. 31, 2046.

9. How much money would be collected?

We estimate the sales tax would generate about \$980 million, with the City of Punta Gorda receiving approximately \$82 million.

10. Does the money stay in Charlotte County?

All revenue generated by the 1% local option sales tax is spent on projects within Charlotte County.

11. Why use sales tax for these projects over other revenue sources?

There are several advantages to the sales tax over property taxes:

- Visitors to the county pay the local option sales tax, rather than ad valorem taxes which are paid 100% by property owners;
- There will be no increase to the sales tax we are currently paying; and
- People on fixed spending incomes pay a smaller overall percentage of sales tax as opposed to those who spend more on major taxable purchases

12. What did Charlotte County do with the sales tax funds already collected?

In 1994 voters approved the 1% local option sales tax for two specific projects, the construction of a new Justice Center and a new jail. In 1998, 2002, 2008, 2014 and 2020, voters approved extensions. The status of the projects is as follows:

Charlotte County Projects 2020			
1	Charlotte County Public Schools Security Upgrades	\$5,000,000	Completed
2	Water Quality Infrastructure	\$7,000,000	Partially Completed
3	Family Services Center Phase 2	\$10,900,000	Completed
4	Edgewater Drive Phases 3-5 design/Phase 4 construction	\$28,500,000	Under Design
5	Harborview Road	\$8,250,000	Under Design
6	Fire Station 17	\$11,352,588	Under Construction
7	Airport Rescue Firefighter Training Prop – Phase 2	\$5,000,000	Completed
8	Radio Management Warehouse	\$750,000	Under Review
9	CCSO Administration Bldg./Hardened 911	\$45,000,000	Completed
10	Port Charlotte Beach Park Recreation Center & Pool	\$32,700,000	Under Construction
11	G.C. Herring Park	\$2,791,000	Under Construction
12	William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Phase 2	\$2,097,781	Under Construction
13	Bicycle, Pedestrian Sidewalks and Trails	\$6,000,000	Under Design/Partially Completed
15	Fire Station 6	\$10,058,255	Under Construction
16	Fire Station 3	\$ 4,834,000	Under Construction
17	CCSO District 4 and Training Complex	\$9,300,000	Completed
18	Water Quality – Vacuum Stations	\$3,000,000	On Hold
19	CCSO District 2	\$5,600,000	Completed
20	Charlotte Sports Park renovation	\$6,000,000	On Hold
21	South County Annex	\$11,200,000	Under Master Planning
22	Edgewater Drive Phase 3	\$10,000,000	Under Design
23	Library Renovations	\$4,500,000	Under Design
24	Supervisor of Elections Warehouse	\$8,200,000	Completed
	<i>Total</i>	\$249,282,914	

Charlotte County Projects 2014			
1	Olean Boulevard Widening	\$9,914,000	Complete
2	Piper Road North Improvements	\$13,600,000	Complete
3	Jail Expansion – Medical Wing	\$8,662,184.43	Complete
4	Charlotte County Sheriff District 1 Headquarters	\$3,690,993.92	Complete

5	Mac V. Horton West County Annex Replacement	\$5,178,707	Complete
6	Public Safety Digital Radio System	\$8,980,000	Complete
7	Fiber to Fire Stations	\$140,987	Complete
8	McGuire Park Phase 1	\$1,252,000	Complete
9	Veterans Memorial Park	\$692,692	Complete
10	Family Services Center Expansion and Remodeling	\$10,647,000	Complete
11	Recreation Center Renovations	\$4,123,000	Complete
12	Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Splash Pad	\$400,000	Complete
13	Punta Gorda Charlotte Library	\$7,801,000	Complete
14	Centennial Park Recreation Center ¹	\$10,310,450	Complete
15	Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Recreation Center	\$7,056,000	Complete
16	Multi-use Trails and On-road Bicycle Lanes	\$3,800,000	Under Review
17	Riverwalk ² /Gateway Project	\$4,271,297	Complete
18	Front Entry Access Control (School project)	\$1,074,700	Complete
19	Classroom Security Function Lock Sets (School project)	\$676,223	Complete
20	Wireless Access Points (School project)	\$423,900	Complete
21	Centennial Park Pool ¹	\$6,819,041.66	Complete
22	Sailing Center at Port Charlotte Beach Park	\$512,678 ²	Complete
23	Placida Boat Ramp	\$7,000,000	Under Design
24	Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Splash Pad	\$400,000	Complete
25	Justice Center Generator	\$900,000	Complete
26	William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Phase 1	\$2,050,000	Complete
	¹ formerly North Charlotte Regional Park ² formerly known as Harbor Walk ³ Budget total not finalized	<i>Total</i>	\$124,012,853.66

Charlotte County Projects 2008

1	Burnt Store Phase 3	\$20,000,000	Complete
2	Edgewater Corridor Phase 2	\$19,427,095	Complete
3	Midway – Elkcam to Kings Highway	\$25,405,710	Complete
4	C.R. 775/Placida Road	\$9,813,920	Complete
5	Sidewalks	\$8,543,793	Under Construction
6	C.R. 771/Gasparilla Road	\$18,198,280	Complete (used other funds)
		<i>Total</i>	\$101,388,798

Charlotte County Projects 2002

1	Edgewater Mitigation Land (Scrub jays)	\$1,700,000	Complete
2	Burnt Store Road Safety Features	\$3,000,000	Complete
3	Veterans Boulevard	\$7,300,000	Complete
4	Fire Rescue Tech Truck	\$200,000	Complete
5	EOC/9-1-1 Center	\$3,575,000	Complete
6	Expand Emergency Radio System	\$3,200,000	Complete
7	Fire Rescue Mobile Operations Truck	\$550,000	Complete
8	South County Regional Park – all phases	\$8,991,000	Complete
9	Oyster Creek Regional Park ¹ – all phases	\$7,957,000	Complete
10	Bayshore Live Oaks Park – Phases I & II	\$5,180,000	Complete
11	Boat Ramps – expand existing/add parking	\$3,000,000	Complete
12	Oyster Creek Regional Park ¹ Pool	\$2,000,000	Complete
13	Murdock Business Park – Project Development	\$3,000,000	Complete
14	Homeless Shelter – Funded Homeless Coalition Projects	\$600,000	Complete
15	Fair Association Expo Building	\$600,000	Complete
16	Connect School Operations to County Radio System	\$100,000	Complete
17	Upgrade Three School Gymnasiums – PCHS/LBHS/CHS	\$3,200,000	Complete
18	Sidewalks – around schools and linkage	\$5,700,000	Complete

19	Regional Water Interconnects – Englewood & Punta Gorda	\$8,978,365	Complete
20	U.S. 41 Revitalization	\$4,287,000	Complete
21	Englewood Fire/EMS Station (Englewood Fire District)	\$2,424,000	Complete
22	North County Regional Park ² – all phases	\$4,332,330	Complete
23	Auditorium/Event Center	\$5,919,442	Complete
24	Reclaimed Water for U.S. 41 Revitalization	\$14,712	Complete (used other funds)
25	Airport Commerce Park – Water Retention/Stormwater	\$1,200,000	Complete
26	Airport Commerce Park – Piper Road Phase I	\$5,000,000	Complete
27	Winchester Corridor	\$8,989,793	Complete
28	Fire Training Facility	\$91,489	Complete
29	Aqui Esta	\$900,000	Complete
30	Edgewater/Flamingo Corridor	\$15,900,000	Complete
	¹ Now Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park		
	² Now Centennial Park		
	<i>Total</i>	\$117,890,131	

Charlotte County Projects 1998			
1	Winchester Blvd. Hurricane Evacuation Route	\$11,362,000	Complete
2	30+ miles of Sidewalks	\$11,810,000	Complete
3	Franz Ross Park	\$950,000	Complete
4	Englewood Beach Park	\$1,127,000	Complete
5	Stump Pass Beach	\$100,000	Complete
6	911 Equipment/Dispatch	\$1,000,000	Complete
7	Special ops vehicle and 2 rescue units	\$555,000	Complete
8	Emergency shelter & 15 refuge sites	\$550,000	Complete
9	Amberjack Environmental Park	\$400,000	Complete
10	Oyster Creek Environmental Park	\$500,000	Complete
11	Port Charlotte Beach Park	\$700,000	Complete
12	Rotonda Community Park	\$300,000	Complete
13	South County Regional Park Phase I	\$2,500,000	Complete
14	West County Regional Park ¹ Phase I (Oyster Creek)	\$2,500,000	Complete
15	North County Regional Park ² Phase I	\$3,550,000	Complete
16	New Fire Stations #13 & 14	\$1,840,000	Complete
17	Cultural Center Expansion & Renovation	\$6,436,000	Complete
18	Center for Performing Arts @ Charlotte High	\$1,500,000	Complete
19	Mid-County Regional Library	\$8,139,000	Complete
20	Sunrise Environmental Park	\$700,000	Complete
21	Emergency Shelter @ Dept of Health	\$505,000	Complete
	¹ Now Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park		
	² Now Centennial Park		
	<i>Total</i>	\$57,024,000	

Charlotte County Projects 1994			
1	Charlotte County Jail	\$25,291,000	Complete
2	Charlotte County Justice Center	\$26,885,000	Complete
	<i>Total</i>	\$52,176,000	

13. What does the City of Punta Gorda receive from the 1% Sales Tax?

Under Florida Statutes, the City of Punta Gorda receives approximately 9.1% of the sales tax revenue.



City of Punta Gorda Projects 1994, 1998, 2002, 2008, 2014, 2020

1	Freeman House & Gov Center Plaza/Parking	\$1,933,000	Complete
2	City Contribution to Historic Courthouse Renovations	\$1,009,000	Complete
3	Police/Fire/Emergency Vehicles, Equipment	\$2,830,000	Complete
4	Bridge Lights	\$139,000	Complete
5	City Contribution to Center for Performing Arts	\$350,000	Complete
6	Fleet Maintenance Building	\$500,000	Complete
7	Public Safety Building, Fire Stations 2 & 3	\$4,745,000	Complete
8	Park Land Acquisition & Development	\$1,490,000	Complete
9	Laishley Park	\$2,169,000	Complete
10	Martin Luther King Blvd Streetscape	\$350,000	Complete
11	Harborwalk at Event Center	\$750,000	Complete
12	City Beautification (U.S. 41 & other areas)	\$705,000	Complete
13	Taylor Street Parking Improvements	\$323,000	Complete
14	Public Works/Utility Complex	\$4,850,000	Complete
15	Day Docks	\$158,000	Complete
16	Computer Aided Dispatch & Records Management	\$424,000	Complete
17	Punta Gorda Pathways	\$5,006,000	Complete
18	Downtown Flooding Mitigation (Phase 1)	\$1,101,000	Complete
19	Downtown Flooding Mitigation (Phase 2)	\$407,000	Complete
20	Laishley Park Irrigation & Drainage	\$350,000	Complete
21	800 MHz Radio System	\$520,000	Complete
22	Police/Public Works/Code Vehicles	\$557,000	Complete
23	Project Management	\$768,000	Complete
24	Interest on Project Financing	\$772,000	Complete
25	Energy Improvements	\$456,000	Complete
26	Punta Gorda Pathways/Harborwalk	\$7,875,000	Complete
27	Stormwater	\$1,060,000	Complete
28	Street Lighting	\$345,000	Complete
29	Sidewalks	\$480,000	Complete
30	Technology–Website, network, phone, computers	\$585,000	Complete
31	Fleet–Fire engine, police cars, truck	\$1,300,000	Complete
32	Facilities–Restrooms, lighting, chamber equipment	\$280,000	Complete
33	Waterfront Activity Center design	\$75,000	No longer a project
34	Public Safety Building expansion	\$5,427,500	Assessment/ Master Planning
35	Historic District Infrastructure	\$1,038,000	Ongoing - 3 Phases
36	Henry St. Crosswalk	\$240,000	Under Review
37	Henry St. Sidewalk	\$150,000	Ongoing
38	Shreve St. Improvements	\$225,000	Under Review
39	Burnt Store Traffic Signal	\$1,100,000	Pending Approval and Review
40	Copper St. Improvements	\$991,000	FDOT Project - Under contract
41	U.S. 17 Improvements	\$519,000	FDOT Project
42	ADA Improvements	\$779,000	Ongoing
43	Boca Grande Area Drainage Improvements	\$2,976,000	Ongoing
44	Historic City Hall Preservation	\$3,608,000	In Design Phase
45	Freeman House Preservation	\$200,000	Under Construction
46	Bayfront Activity Center	\$330,785	Under Review
47	Henry Street Property Improvements	\$2,817,000	Ongoing
	<i>*Funding from other sources may be used to complete projects</i>	\$64,662,000	
	<i>Total</i>		

14. How do I know as a voter that these projects would be completed?

All projects funded by the 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2008 sales tax referendums have been completed. All but one project funded by the 2014 sales tax referendum has been completed. Florida statutes require the county to adopt a plan for sales tax expenditures and all revenue is kept separate from other county funds. The funds can only be used for the projects authorized by the referendum.

15. Are these wish list projects? How would approval affect my existing taxes?

These are not wish list projects. The majority of them have been included in the county's 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP). For example, the county has been discussing the road program deficit for years. Recent property tax reforms have made it doubtful that the county will be able to adequately address the construction of capital projects without an alternate funding source. Sales tax is an opportunity that will spread the burden among tourists and seasonal residents, not just local property owners.

16. Can the project list change?

Yes, the project list would change if approved by a majority of the County Commission.

17. What input did the community have on the local option sales tax?

A citizen focus group reviews the proposed projects and makes recommendations to the County Commission. All meetings are advertised and open to the public. County Commission meetings included opportunities for public input, including the meetings where the local option sales tax was discussed or project status reports were provided. Voters will have the final say on whether the local option sales tax extension is approved in the Nov. 3, 2026 general election.

18. Where can I find information on the local option sales tax statute?

The local option sales tax is authorized by Florida Statute 212. The statute can be found online by visiting <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes>. The local option sales tax is located in Title XV Taxation and Finance.

19. What happens if the sales tax question is not approved by the voters?

The projects will have to wait for available funding, which will be many years in the future. Eventually the funding for these projects will fall on the capital improvement ad valorem tax, and property owners will be paying for their construction, with no assistance from visitors to our county.

20. Where can I get more information on the projects?

The county website (www.CharlotteCountyFL.com/salestax) has complete project information.

To request a speaker to address members of your organization, visit

www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/SpeakerRequest.

For information, contact the Charlotte County Communications Department at 941-623-1092.