

# Fact Sheet

**Kansas City Questions 1 and 2 will appear on the ballot Tuesday, August 7, 2012**

**REFORM**

**REPEAL**

**REPAIR**

Inspired by recommendations from the Municipal Revenue Commission (a citizens committee appointed by Mayor Sly James to study Kansas City's tax structure), Question 1 strategically reforms the tax code. It provides stable funding and enhanced services for the entire parks system, while at the same time creating a dedicated street repair fund.

Question 1 reforms the tax code by discontinuing the assessment and collection of three different property taxes and the annual (per) vehicle fee of \$12.50 (which only Kansas City residents pay), and replaces that revenue with a 1/2 cent sales tax that everyone pays (including people who visit and work here, but don't live here). With the sales tax, contributions from the City's General Fund to Parks will no longer be required, allowing those funds to be dedicated to a new street maintenance and repairs fund, with a set minimum amount each year dedicated to that purpose.

**By voting YES on Question 1, you will specifically authorize the City to ...**

- prohibit renewal of the annual \$12.50 motor vehicle fee
- cease billing and collecting the trafficways maintenance tax
- cease billing and collecting the park and boulevard maintenance tax
- cease billing and collecting the boulevard front foot assessment tax
- enact as a replacement a 1/2 cent sales tax for the purpose of providing for the maintenance and operation of parks, parkways, boulevards and community centers
- establish a dedicated fund to be used exclusively for street maintenance
- transfer no less than 7.5% of the net annual earnings tax collections to the dedicated street maintenance fund (currently no less than \$15 million per year)



**VOTE  
YES**

**Kansas City Question 2** is a \$500 million revenue bond issue for the purpose of extending and improving the sanitary sewer system of the City, including compliance with the federally mandated Consent Decree for the Overflow Control Program, with the principal and interest of the bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its sanitary sewer system. **There are no increases in property taxes or any other taxes in connection with this bond authorization.**

**By voting YES on Question 2, you will be authorizing the City to ...**

- issue revenue bonds to begin upgrading Kansas City's antiquated combined sewer system, as mandated by the federal government through a consent decree, which currently allows sewage to mix with storm water run-off, polluting streams and rivers and creating health hazards in the city.
- extend sanitary sewers where needed in the growth areas of the city.

**Kansas City Questions 1 and 2** address basic services and improvements in Kansas City. This is a no-frills, common sense approach to reforming our tax system and improving basic services and infrastructure. **Question 1** restores basic funding for operations and maintenance of our Parks System, not to its higher level of five years ago, but to a minimal level that is required to keep community centers open and operating; trees trimmed and the grass mowed. The collection of three existing property taxes and the annual \$12.50 (per) vehicle fee are **eliminated** and replaced by a 1/2 cent sales tax, which is paid by everyone, including people who visit or work here, but don't live here.

An essential component of this reform is the establishment of a permanent fund for street maintenance and repairs, with a set minimum of 7.5% of the revenue collected from the Earnings Tax, which nearly doubles the amount of money currently allocated to fixing our streets.

**Question 2** authorizes the issuance of \$500 million in revenue bonds to upgrade our sewer system, as mandated by the federal government, **and will not increase any taxes.** These bonds are retired with revenue from operation of Kansas City's sewer system.

**Combined, Questions 1 and 2 will create thousands of jobs,** both in the private and public sectors, stimulating our local economy and creating investments in our community that are needed to attract new residents and businesses to the city.

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Paid for by Progress K.C. Committee, Matthew Dameron, Treasurer

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**KANSAS CITY QUESTIONS 1&2 • AUGUST 7**