

BLOOMINGTON FORWARD: INVESTING I

On Tuesday, November 7, Bloomington voters will consider a half-cent local option sales tax to finance \$155 million in bonds for three major community projects for better health, wellness, athletics, and recreation and improved natural areas. If you have questions about the projects or the sales tax, visit bloomingtonforward.org/connect.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are a few of the most frequently asked questions. An extensive list is available at bloomingtonforward.org/faq.

PROJECT FOCUSED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE BLOOMINGTON FORWARD PLAN?

Guided by feedback from residents, the City has put forward a \$155 million investment plan to:

- Build a new community health and wellness center, \$100 million plus \$1.8 million from the State of Minnesota.
- Support major renovations at Bloomington Ice Garden, \$35 million plus \$2.272 million from the State of Minnesota.
- Provide new amenities and habitat restoration along the Nine Mile Creek Corridor, \$20 million.

The total investment for these projects is \$159 million.

WHY IS THE CITY SEEKING TO BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER?

The City is seeking to build a new community health and wellness center to replace the Creekside Community Center and Bloomington Public Health buildings, which were built in the 1960s and are too small and outdated to serve the growing needs of the community. The new facility would be located where Creekside is now, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

The new center would provide flexible gathering spaces, activities and recreational opportunities for community members of all ages and backgrounds, including older adults, families and those with disabilities. A new center would also strengthen access to health and wellness programs for the community. The new facility would more effectively support public health services including immunizations, nutrition education, pregnancy and parenting education, older adult health resources and more.

WHY IS THE BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN ON THE LIST FOR IMPROVEMENTS?

Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) features three ice rinks and is one of the busiest ice skating facilities in Minnesota, hosting more than 9,000 hours of ice time and 24 tournaments and events annually.

The City proposes renovating and upgrading the 50-year-old facility to ensure it continues to provide Bloomington skaters and families quality ice time close to home, and continues to draw visitors from across the region who bring revenue to Bloomington through hotel stays, restaurant visits, gas purchases, retail sales and more.

WHY IS THE NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR ON THE LIST FOR IMPROVEMENTS?

Occupying 240 acres, Moir/Central Park in the Nine Mile Creek corridor features trails and many outdoor amenities that residents enjoy. Invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard are taking a toll on this Bloomington jewel. Riverbank erosion and loss of woodlands and wetlands also threaten the corridor's long-term future.

To ensure Moir/Central Park and the Nine Mile Creek corridor continue to connect residents to nature and outdoor activities, the City is seeking to restore eroded riverbanks, enhance and protect natural habitat, add new amenities to the park and build new bridges and trails, as needed. The overall goal would be to improve and restore critical natural resources in the corridor.

SALES TAX FOCUSED QUESTIONS

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SALES TAX RATE IF ONE OR TWO OF THE PROJECTS ARE APPROVED INSTEAD OF ALL THREE?

The sales tax rate would stay the same no matter how many questions are approved by voters. The tax would be 0.5% so long as one, two or all three projects are approved in November.

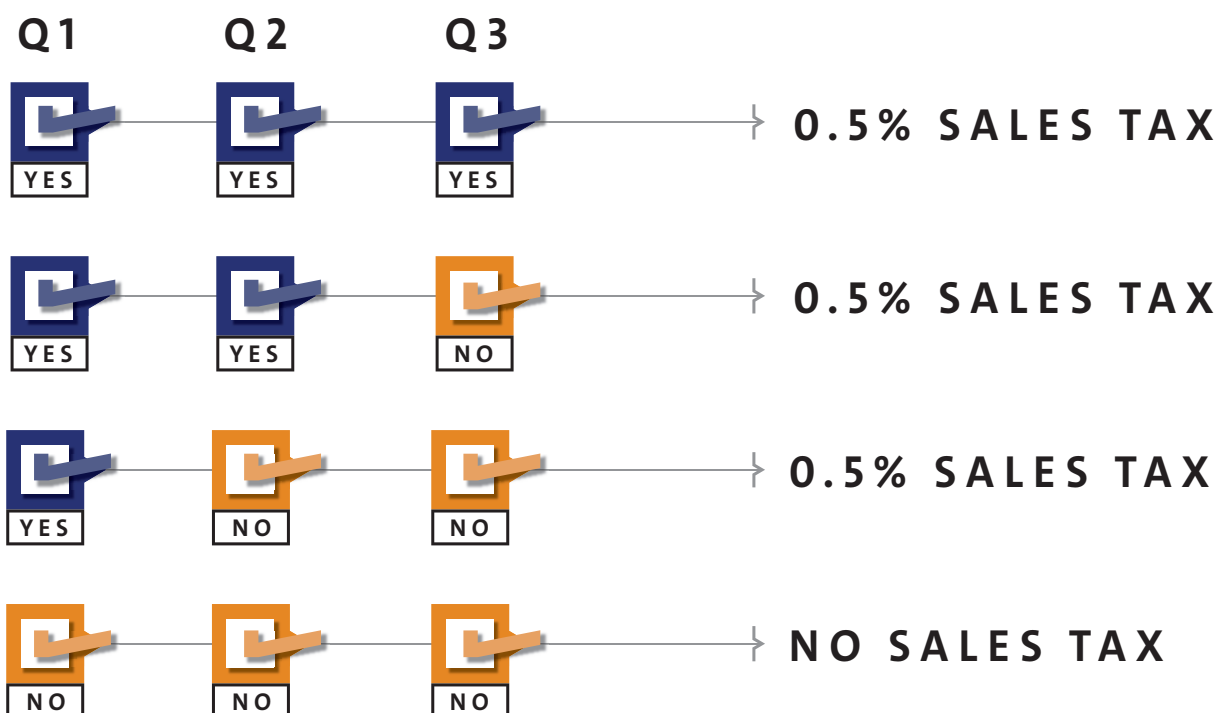
The sales tax will end when the approved project(s) are fully funded. The maximum term for the sales tax is 20 years. If just one or two projects are accepted by voters, the sales tax will still end when the project or projects are fully funded, likely before the maximum term.

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS TO THE SALES TAX?

The local option sales tax has the same exemptions for purchases as the state sales tax. Sales tax wouldn't be collected on groceries, clothing, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, feminine hygiene products and baby products. Sales of motor vehicles and boats are also exempt.

WHAT THE VOTE MEANS

If one, two or all three questions are approved by the voters, the City is only authorized to impose a single half cent (0.5%) sales tax increase for a maximum of 20 years or until enough sales tax revenue has been raised to pay for the costs of the voter-approved projects.



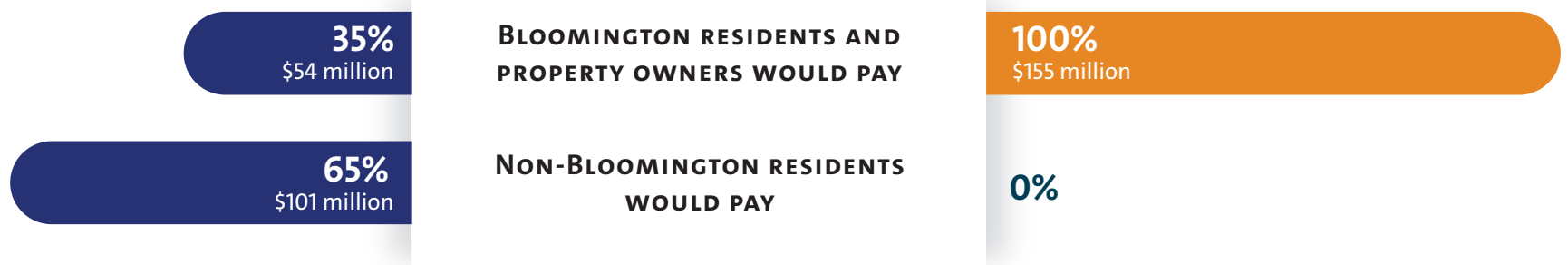
G IN OUR COMMUNITY

SALES TAX VERSUS PROPERTY TAX BLOOMINGTON FORWARD INVESTMENT: \$155 MILLION

0.5% SALES TAX
(PROPOSED)



PROPERTY TAX
(RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL)



The State of Minnesota is providing \$4 million for these projects, making the total investment \$159 million. This illustration includes the latest data, as of September 15, from the University of Minnesota Extension.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Here are the questions as they will appear on your ballot November 7.

QUESTION 1

SALES AND USE TAX FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Shall the City of Bloomington impose a one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax for up to 20 years for \$100 million plus the cost of interest and of issuing the bonds, to build a new Community Health and Wellness Center?

- Yes
- No

By voting “yes” on this question you are voting to increase the sales tax in Bloomington to pay for a new building and related updates that provides wellness and recreational activities and that replaces the existing Creekside Community Center and Public Health buildings. If one, two, or all three questions are approved by the voters, the City is only authorized to impose a single one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax increase for a maximum of 20 years or until enough sales tax revenue has been raised to pay for the costs of the voter-approved projects.

QUESTION 2

SALES AND USE TAX FOR BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

Shall the City of Bloomington impose a one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax for up to 20 years for \$35 million plus the cost of interest and of issuing the bonds for improvements to the Bloomington Ice Garden (“BIG”)?

- Yes
- No

By voting “yes” on this question you are voting to increase the sales tax in Bloomington to pay for costs related to and improvements of mechanical, refrigeration, and roof systems, accessibility for people with disabilities, new locker rooms, ice sheets, training area, and spectator and concession spaces. If one, two, or all three questions are approved by the voters, the City is only authorized to impose a single one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax increase for a maximum of 20 years or until enough sales tax revenue has been raised to pay for the costs of the voter-approved projects.

QUESTION 3

SALES AND USE TAX FOR NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR RENEWAL

Shall the City of Bloomington impose a one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax for up to 20 years for \$20 million plus the cost of interest and of issuing the bonds for new construction and restoration of the Nine Mile Creek Corridor, including Moir and Central Parks?

- Yes
- No

By voting “yes” on this question you are voting to increase the sales tax in Bloomington to pay for improvements including wetland and Nine Mile Creek restoration, new trails, boardwalks, and bridges, accessibility for people with disabilities, and new restrooms, park shelter, playground, and other facilities. If one, two, or all three questions are approved by the voters, the City is only authorized to impose a single one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax increase for a maximum of 20 years or until enough sales tax revenue has been raised to pay for the costs of the voter-approved projects.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BLOOMINGTON FORWARD?

City Manager Jamie Verbrugge is hosting two public information sessions on the Bloomington Forward plan in October. The first session will take place online (on Zoom) Wednesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m. The following session will take place in-person on Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more details, including the Zoom link, visit bloomingtonforward.org/info-sessions.

LEARN MORE

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