



Kingman County Commission

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Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce, Kingman KS 67068
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 3, 2014

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Voter registration ends March 18 for special county election

Kingman County has scheduled a special election on April 8. The last day to register to vote in that election is March 18.

The election will ask voters whether the county should enact a 1 percent, countywide general sales tax to help fund capital improvements and provide property tax relief. Some of the revenue could be spent to help fund construction of a new law enforcement center.

New voters must register and can do so at one of three locations: the Kingman County Clerk's Office on the second floor of the courthouse at 130 N Spruce, Kingman; the City of Kingman office at 324 N. Main, Kingman, or the First National Bank of Cunningham, 101 E. 1st St., Cunningham.

State law requires first-time voters to present proof of U.S. citizenship when registering. Valid citizenship documents include a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, and naturalization documents. For a complete list of accepted citizenship documents and a voter registration form, go to the Kingman County website (www.kingmancoks.com) and click on "Elections" in the navigation bar. Don't know if you are registered or if your registration is active? Click on the link on the Elections page to find out or call the County Clerk at (620) 532-2521.

Polls will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In-person advance voting at the County Clerk's office begins April 1 and continues until noon on April 7. Anyone wishing to file an advance ballot by mail must request that ballot no later than April 4. The County Clerk will begin mailing advance ballots on March 19. A link to an advance ballot application form is posted on the county's website or you may request an application by calling the clerk's office.

The proposed sales tax is projected to raise \$910,000 annually. The majority of that revenue (63 percent) will go to the county, approximately \$576,849. This projection is based on the county's current .75 percent sales tax, which brought in \$682,000 in 2013, according to the Kansas Department of Revenue.

The other 37 percent of the revenue will be divided among the county's seven incorporated cities using a two-part formula that weighs property taxes levied in the previous year and population. The next largest beneficiary of the tax will be the city of Kingman, which will receive 26.5 percent, an estimated \$241,605 annually. Other cities' projected shares will be: Norwich, \$38,311; Cunningham, \$36,491; Zenda, \$6,370; Spivey, \$5,096; Nashville, \$4,095; and Penalosa, \$1,183.

If enacted, the tax would begin on Oct. 1, 2014 or as soon thereafter as possible and continue for 20 years. If all other current sales tax rates remain the same, the new county sales tax rate would be 7.9 percent until 2021, when it would drop to 7.15 percent. The county's current .75 percent sales tax for roads and bridges expires in 2020. More information on sales tax rates is posted on the county's website.

This sales tax vote differs from the vote held in October 2013 in that revenue from the 1 percent tax would be shared with cities and not restricted to funding a new LEC.

At their regular weekly meeting Monday, commissioners opted not to pursue a contract for Phase 3 services (design, construction & occupancy) from Rich & Associates for the LEC project. Rich has been assisting the county with the LEC project since March 2012.

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