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# HALLSVILLE NEWS & VIEWS

## Understanding the Use Tax Ballot Question: Why It's Back and What It Means for Your Town

Voters in our community will again be asked to decide on a use tax measure. Many residents have questions about what a use tax is, how it works, and why it keeps appearing on the ballot. This article aims to provide clear and factual information so you can make an informed decision.

### What Is a Use Tax?

A use tax is a tax on purchases made from out-of-state sellers that do not collect local sales tax.

### Why Is the Use Tax on the Ballot Again?

Approving the use tax ballot measure would ensure that local businesses are not at a disadvantage compared to out-of-state sellers. Without a use tax, our community loses out on significant tax revenue that could support essential services such as:

- Street and road maintenance
- Public Works vehicle and equipment purchases and upkeep
- Public safety initiatives
- Community Center upkeep
- Public parks and recreational facilities

Many neighboring towns and cities have already adopted a use tax, ensuring they receive the revenue necessary to maintain local infrastructure and services.

### How Does This Affect Local Shoppers?

If you always shop locally and pay sales tax, this measure would not change anything for you. The use tax only applies to purchases from out-of-state retailers who do not collect local sales tax.

### The use tax will NOT:

- Apply to everyday purchases, groceries, or prescription medications.
- Be charged in addition to sales tax. If you already paid local sales tax, you do not owe use tax.
- Affect items bought at local businesses.

### The use tax WILL:

- Ensure fair treatment of local businesses. Right now, online and out-of-state retailers avoid collecting taxes that local businesses must charge. This puts hometown businesses at a disadvantage.
- Keep tax dollars in our community. Without a use tax, residents who purchase from out-of-state vendors are not contributing to local roads, emergency services, and other public infrastructure.
- Prevent future funding shortfalls. Many infrastructure projects and services rely on tax revenue. Without a use tax, there may be increased pressure to raise funds through property taxes or budget cuts.

### What Happens If the Measure Passes?

If voters approve the use tax, the town will be able to collect tax revenue from out-of-state purchases where no local sales tax was charged. The funds will go directly toward supporting local government services and maintaining community infrastructure.

### What Happens If the Measure Fails?

If the use tax measure does not pass, our town will continue missing out on tax revenue, while residents who shop locally will carry a larger share of the tax burden. Local businesses will also remain at a disadvantage against out-of-state sellers.

### Making an Informed Decision

As this measure appears on the ballot again, we encourage all residents to understand its impact on your community.



March 2025



- **March 5th:** Emergency sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month.
- **March 9th:** Daylight Saving Time Begins.
- **March 10th:** Accounts signed up for automatic withdraw payments for City water and/or trash will have payments removed from your account.
- **March 10th:** The Board of Aldermen has their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- **March 11th:** A 5% penalty is added to all water and/or trash accounts that are unpaid.
- **March 21st:** A \$35 nonpayment fee will be added to all water and/or trash accounts that are unpaid. Services will be discontinued. Needing help with your bill? Call City Hall before the 21st!



### **Ash Trees: What to Know**

**Signs of a Dying Ash Tree:** **Sparse Crown.** The crown of an ash tree should have thick foliage. **Cracking Bark.** A common sign of a dying ash tree is the bark beginning to crack and split off from the trunk of the tree. **EAB Exit Holes.** A telltale sign that your ash tree is dying because of emerald ash borers is finding D-shaped holes on the trunk of your tree. When your ash tree is dead or dying because of an emerald ash borer infestation, it's in your best interest – and the community's – to have it professionally removed before the tree becomes a hazard or the pests spread.



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## **City Anniversaries and Birthdays - March**

Happy birthday to the fabulous Deputy Clerk Valerie Brightwell on March 27th! If you spot her, break into a tune and serenade her like the superstar she is!

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### **Hallsville Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Tuesday, March 4th:** Bimonthly meeting of the Hallsville Area Chamber of Commerce at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**Wednesday, March 12th:** Chamber Coffee Chat at City Hall from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. March will be hosted by Cheri T. Reisch, owner of Cheri T. Reisch Property Management. Businesses in the Hallsville area are encouraged to attend the monthly networking event, held on the second Wednesday of each month. Join them for coffee and breakfast to discuss your business and connect with other businesses in the community.

### **Grow Hallsville Parks Foundation**

**The Grow Hallsville Parks Foundation is taking a break in March - but get ready for April!**



**Sunday, April 6th:** Time to flex those muscles at Park Clean Up Day, kicking off at 1:00 p.m. Come on down for a fun-filled afternoon of weed wrangling and stick scoopin'!

**Thursday, April 10th:** Snaps with the Bunny. Get a picture with the Easter Bunny! Bring your kiddos and/or fur babies to City Hall at 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for \$5 a photo. Enjoy some sweet treats while you share giggles with the Bunny! Keep your eyes peeled for a Google sign-up form on Facebook!

**Saturday, April 12th:** Dust off those bunny ears and hop on over to Tribble Park for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. It's going to be a hopping good time!

**Monday, April 7th thru Friday, April 18th:** "Hoppin' Johns - Pay to Pass the Pot!" The fundraising toilets make their appearance again! If you want to be one of the first to give an Easter 'surprise' give City Hall a call at 573-696-3885. \$20.00 will place the potty in the yard of your choice; \$20.00 will take the potty out of your yard; \$25.00 will take the potty out of your yard and put it in the yard of your choice; \$35.00 will take the potty out of your yard, put it in the yard of your choice and it WILL NOT come back to your yard, no matter how many times the Pass the Pot fundraiser is done this year! All proceeds go towards the Veterans Memorial!

### **Police Foundation of Hallsville**

**Saturday, March 8th:** Texas Hold'em - Get ready to shuffle those cards and show off your poker face at the Community Center, 324 E Hwy 00, starting at 4:00 p.m.! Dive into the action with a \$50.00 buy-in—pay at the door, no RSVP needed! Need to up your game? Rebuys are just \$25.00, plus they've got add-ons. And guess what? A whopping 80% of all buy-ins, rebuys, and add-ons goes straight into the pot! This shindig is for the 21-and-up crowd only!

**Monday, March 31st:** Time to raise the roof for a Veteran, a cherished family member, a buddy, or that wise mentor who's always got your back! Treat them to a personalized brick at the Hallsville Veterans Memorial in Tribble Park! To be constructed by summer 2026. And guess what? You don't need to be a local superstar to join in! Choose your size: a 4x8 for \$150.00 or a 8x8 for \$250.00. Get those orders in by March 31st! Swing by Hallsville City Hall for order forms or zap that QR Code to order online!



**Saturday, April 5th:** Lace up those sneakers for the Run with the Cops 5K walk/run! Sign up by March 17th to snag a free 5K t-shirt! It's just \$35.00 for adults and only \$10.00 for kiddos 12 and under. Day of registration kicks off at 7:00 a.m. at Hallsville Intermediate School, with the run/walk launching at 8:00 a.m. It's all for a great cause—helping fund the Hallsville Veterans Memorial! Hit the pavement for some fun and philanthropy! Use QR code to register online or get registration form at Hallsville City Hall.

