

CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN

875 Main Street
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

WHAT IS SPLOST?

SPLOST is the acronym for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The tax is used by cities and counties to fund capital improvement projects such as road improvements, public buildings, park improvements or equipment. Only capital projects as defined by state law can be funded by SPLOST. The funds from a SPLOST cannot be used for government operations, such as salaries, supplies or utilities. DeKalb County is considering the adoption of a resolution calling for a vote by the electorate to implement a one percent SPLOST. State law caps the maximum tax rate at one percent. SPLOST is not a permanent tax. The maximum term allowed by law is six years.

WHAT IS E-HOST?

The call for a vote on SPLOST also includes a call for a vote on E-HOST. Currently owners of homestead property in DeKalb County receive a tax credit from the collection of a one percent sales tax called HOST. HOST is the acronym for Homestead Option Sales Tax. E-HOST is the acronym for Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax. E-HOST is proposed to replace HOST. One hundred percent of the proceeds received by the county from the E-HOST would be used for homestead property tax relief instead of the eighty percent under HOST.

HOW WOULD SPLOST BENEFIT STONE MOUNTAIN?

State law requires a project list so that voters will know specifically how the sales tax revenue will be used. The Mayor and City Council are considering a project list for the city that can be found at: <http://bit.ly/28SuZuW>. This list may change before its final adoption.

The current estimate of average annual revenue from SPLOST is \$947,352. The total revenue over six years is estimated at \$5,684,110. Eighty-one percent of the funds in the current project list would be split evenly between road repairs and improvements to the city's storm water drainage system for the prevention of damage to property and roads from rain storms. Funding for renovations to the historic train depot, parks and police equipment are also on the project list. The project list is on the agenda for the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council scheduled on July 5, 2016 at 7:30 PM at City Hall.

DeKalb County's project list can be found at <http://dekalbcountyga.gov/SPLOST/SPLOSTProjects.html>.

WHEN WILL THE VOTE BE TAKEN?

If approved by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners then SPLOST and E-HOST would be on the general election ballot for a vote on November 8, 2016.

In 2015 the State Legislation adopted HB 215 to govern the implementation of SPLOST in DeKalb County. HB215 requires that E-HOST and SPLOST must both be approved by the voters or neither tax can be collected. HOST would remain in place if either vote fails.

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