

2019 SPLOST FACT SHEET

1. What is a SPLOST?

A Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a county-wide tax used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating municipal governments. It may not be used for operating expenses. The tax is imposed when the County Board of Commissioners calls a local referendum and the referendum is subsequently passed by the voters within the county. The tax is collected on all items subject to sales tax.

2. Is a SPLOST currently being collected in Colquitt County ?

Yes. In 2012, the voters renewed the SPLOST estimated to bring in \$36.5 million. The SPLOST was approved to be collected for 6 years (the maximum amount of time permitted by law) and will expire December 2018. Over \$16M of the 2013 SPLOST was earmarked for transportation improvements and over \$9M was earmarked for water & sewer system improvements. The balance of the funds was designated to economic development, general capital obligations, recreation, and public safety improvements.

Note: During the referendum on the 2013 SPLOST, a total of 2,532 Colquitt County voters participated. 2,002 voters (79%) approved of the 2013 SPLOST. 530 voters (21%) disapproved.

3. Do we need to extend our current SPLOST?

Colquitt County continues to experience growth. This growth requires new or upgraded facilities and infrastructure to serve the public. A SPLOST is an equitable, consumption tax shared by those who make purchases in Colquitt County, to include numerous visitors or those who are traveling through Colquitt County. It provides a method of funding the cost of capital improvements contributed to by everyone, not just property owners.

4. If extended, how much would the current SPLOST raise and how long would this tax be in place?

It is projected that up to \$31.4 million could be collected over a six-year period. Collections on the 2019 - 2024 SPLOST would begin after the current SPLOST ends in December 2018. The collection would be seamless.

5. When would the SPLOST vote take place?

The Board of Commissioners will call for a SPLOST referendum on March 21, 2017. By placing the referendum before the voters prior to the expiration of the current SPLOST, it allows the county and cities to plan in advance for funding and allows no lapse in funding.

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6. Will a SPLOST increase property taxes?

No. A SPLOST is a consumption tax, not a property tax. It is charged on goods purchased in Colquitt County, regardless of where the purchaser resides.

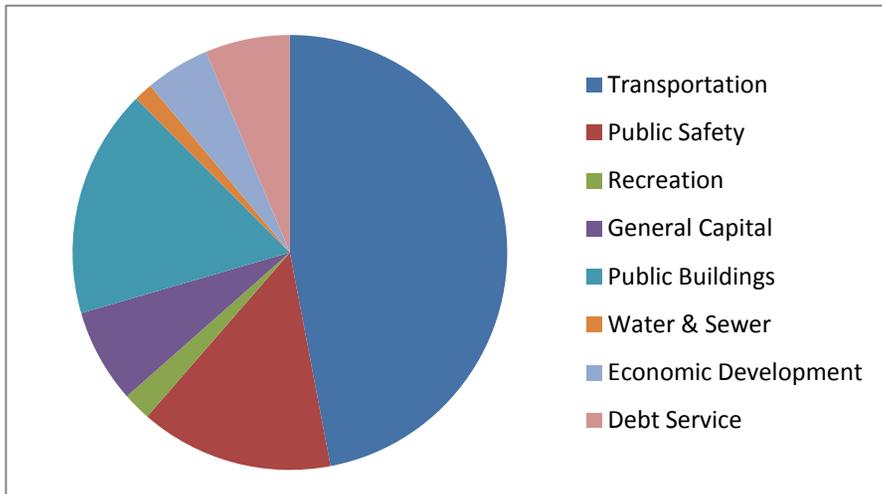
7. Will a SPLOST increase sales tax?

No. It will be a continuation of the existing sales tax, remaining at the current level of seven percent. If approved, the current one percent sales tax would be extended for an additional six years.

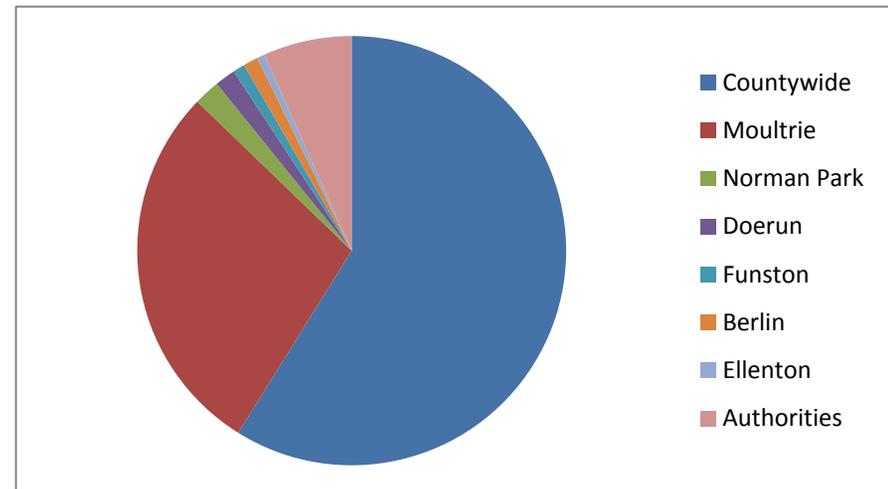
8. What would the County and cities do with the money raised from the SPLOST extension?

Senior staff from the County and the cities have been working to identify the long-term capital needs for each community. These needs have been divided into countywide projects (projects that benefit all communities) and specific unincorporated/municipal projects. Generally, the cost of countywide projects has been deducted from the estimated \$31,400,000 to be collected with the balance of the funds being distributed to unincorporated / municipal projects on a population basis. The final project list will be approved after public input and adoption of an intergovernmental agreement by the county and all of its cities. A proposed allocation of SPLOST funds by project type and community is below:

**SPLOST Allocation By Project Type
\$31,400,000**



**SPLOST Allocation By Community Type
\$31,400,000**



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9. What happens if SPLOST is extended ?

The project mix in this SPLOST includes a number of capital expenditures which have historically been paid with property taxes. Using SPLOST proceeds, instead of property taxes, will help keep our ad valorem taxes low.

10. What happens if SPLOST is not extended ?

Without an extension of the current SPLOST, there would be a number of lost opportunities for the residents of Colquitt County and the cities of Berlin, Doerun, Ellenton, Funston, Moultrie and Norman Park. To fund these opportunities without an extension of the SPLOST, the governing body of each community would have to raise property taxes. Currently, our county taxes are among the lowest in Southwest Georgia. Passage of the SPLOST extension would allow us to maintain our low county millage rate using a consumption tax, rather than relying solely on property taxes for needed community improvements.



Purpose of SPLOST

- Provides an additional revenue source outside of property tax
- 2nd most important revenue source for the County – particularly for Capital Purchases (road resurfacing, ambulances, law enforcement vehicles, radios, public building improvements, etc.)
- Larger base of tax payers, not just Colquitt County property owners
- Mostly based on consumption
- Helps to keep millage rate from rising



Local Sales Tax Break Down

• Sales Tax Break Down (7%):

- 1 cent } State of Georgia (4%)
 - 1 cent }
 - 1 cent }
 - 1 cent }
 - 1 cent: **SPLOST (County: 54% /Cities: 37% /Authorities: 9%)**
 - 1 cent: **LOST (Board of Education)**
 - 1 cent: **E-SPLOST (Board of Education)**
- Local Pennies
- 7% Sales Tax