



Boone County Local Income Tax (LIT) Fact Sheet

- In Boone County, Sheriff Mike Nielsen and local public safety officials are leading the charge for an increase to the Local Income Tax (LIT) to support public safety, which many local leaders say has been underfunded for years. The LIT would support hiring more law enforcement and firefighter personnel county wide. In total, 13 police and fire agencies would receive funds to address their local safety needs.
- The proposal is a ½ of one percent (.5 %) increase in the income tax rate based off of adjusted gross income. The current income tax rate of 1% was adopted over 30 years ago (1986). No increases to local income taxes have been implemented since this date.
- Why .5 %? With the .5% increase, all of the Boone County public safety agencies will receive revenue to address their funding shortfalls. The county could set aside funding each year for the construction of a juvenile detention facility or new jail in the next eight years.
- In Zionsville, a .5 percent LIT increase would lead to an estimated \$3.8 million revenue annually and would be solely dedicated to public safety.
- The Town is understaffed in its public safety departments. The Zionsville Police Department is understaffed by six officers, and the Zionsville Fire Department is understaffed by 12 firefighters.
- The Zionsville Town Council has received testimony and heard comments at the last four council meetings regarding the public safety LIT: Aug. 1 Town Council meeting presentation by Sheriff Mike Nielsen, Sept. 6 Town Council meeting presentation by Police Chief Knox and Fire Chief VanGorder, Sept. 13 Town Council budget meeting and Sept. 21 Town Council meeting.
- To maintain public safety levels over the past few years, the Town of Zionsville has been and is currently using funds that would have gone toward infrastructure, parks and other town services to support basic public safety needs.
- 47 other counties have implemented a public safety Local Option Income Tax (LOIT). Currently Boone County ranks 71st of 92 counties with our income tax. If the new public safety LIT of .5% passes, it would move Boone County's income tax rate into a tie with ten other counties (44-51 position).
- Many public meetings have been held across the county to educate the public in all aspects of this public safety LIT, including presentations at every city/town council in Boone County.
- **Zionsville Police Department**
 - Calls for service have increased 51% in the last six years.
 - New construction will bring in nearly 1,000 new homes and numerous new businesses that will require town services.
 - Currently staffed at 29 full-time officers – well below what is recommended for a community Zionsville's size.
 - The plan is to hire seven police officers and one additional office staff person of the next three years just to get to the recommended staffing levels.



- **Zionsville Fire Department**

- Seen a 23% increase in incident responses over the past four years.
- Minimum standards (according to NFPA 1710) call for a crew of four firefighters on each engine, four firefighters on each ladder truck and two on each ambulance. Zionsville is unable to comply with NFPA 1710 while other neighboring agencies have (Pike Township, Carmel, Lebanon).
- There is a need for three more paramedics and six more full-time firefighters to reach minimum standards, with six additional firefighters to address the fastest growing county in the state.

- **Next steps**

- On Sept. 13, the Boone County Council unanimously voted to support the resolution to implement this local income tax. In order for the resolution to pass, the LIT must receive a simple majority of the votes. With the Boone County Council's vote, a favorable vote from Lebanon or Zionsville will be enough to adopt the LIT for public safety for Boone County.
- On Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., the Boone County Council, the Lebanon City Council and the town councils from Zionsville, Advance, Jamestown and Whitestown will gather at Lebanon High School for a public hearing.
- Zionsville Town Council will continue their discussion on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m.
- On Oct. 5 at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., there will be a a Public Information Meeting at the Boone County Fairgrounds.

- **More resources**

- Boone County Sheriff website: www.boonecountyindianasheriff.com/Default.aspx?tabid=935
- Town of Zionsville website: www.zionsville-in.gov
- Recent *Zionsville Times Sentinel* articles:
www.timessentinel.com/news/local_news/safety-tax-increase-passes-first-test/article_c0dc0b0e-7a87-11e6-9f83-77b533cbe0b7.html
www.timessentinel.com/news/local_news/police-fire-officials-make-case-for-tax/article_96c5fcbe-52fa-515f-80a3-fe17db722427.html
www.timessentinel.com/news/county/county-council-hearing-could-lead-to-income-tax-hike-resolution/article_bf314e49-9dac-5970-a310-dff608192f2a.html
- Recent *Current in Zionsville* articles:
www.currentzionsville.com/2016/09/15/public-safety-tax-clears-first-hurdle-with-support-from-boone-county-council
www.currentzionsville.com/2016/09/09/zionsville-police-fire-chiefs-say-proposed-tax-will-help-relieve-understaffing