

1% Sales Tax

Clearing Up Confusion



What Does the 1% Sales Tax Pay For?

2020-2024

During the past four years, the 1% continuous sales tax has been used for multiple improvements for the Town of Westcliffe. From street and park improvements, to equipment procurement. These funds have contributed to projects that benefit every resident, from children enjoying newer sidewalks to all of us driving on smoother roads.

- Over 8 miles of chip seal roads
- Paved three parking lots
- Concrete benches and tables
- Skid steer, Cubcabet mower, and other equipment.
- Pocket Park concrete sidewalk
- Undergate tailgate spreader
- Tennis court repairs
- Safe Routes to School - providing sidewalk, curb, gutter, and drainage.

Plans For 2024

Applied and received grants for projects including Westcliffe Improvement Phase II, Powell Avenue Phase I, and Jess Price Park. Funds from the tax will be used to repave 2 miles of road, resurfacing alleys behind 100 block of Main Street, and add metal drainage grates along Rosita Avenue. There are many other projects planned but these are just a few.

The Next 5 Years

Over the next 5 years, the funds from the sales tax will be used to chip-seal 2 miles of roadway each year, install curb, gutter, and sidewalk each year if grants are available, address drainage throughout the town, park infrastructure improvements if grants are available, and equipment for street maintenance.



Surrounding Towns Sales Tax

State Sales Tax

Westcliffe - 2.9%
Silver Cliff - 2.9%
Pueblo - 2.9%
Canon City - 2.9%
Florence - 2.9%
Salida - 2.9%
Le Veta 2.9%
Walsenburg 2.9%
Colorado Springs 2.9%

County Sales Tax

Westcliffe - 2%
Silver Cliff - 2%
Pueblo - 1%
Canon City - 2.5%
Florence - 2.5%
Salida - 2.75%
Le Veta 3.0%
Walsenburg 3.0%
Colorado Springs 1.23%

City Sales Tax

Westcliffe - 3%
Silver Cliff - 3%
Pueblo - 3.7%
Canon City - 3%
Florence - 2.5%
Salida - 3%
Le Veta 3.5%
Walsenburg 3.0%
Colorado Springs 3.07%

Total Sales Tax

Westcliffe - 7.9%
Silver Cliff - 7.9%
Pueblo - 7.6%
Canon City - 8.4%
Florence - 7.9%
Salida - 8.65%
Le Veta 9.40%
Walsenburg 8.90%
Colorado Springs 8.2%

Items That Aren't Funded By The 1% Sales Tax

An error was made on a social media post and in our monthly newsletter about adding color to Main Street. Small projects like the additional hardy trees, flowers, and smaller budgeting items would be provided from our general operating fund. We apologize for any confusion.

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SALES TAX PROPERTY TAX WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Understanding how our town's revenue is generated and allocated is crucial. Here's a breakdown of our revenue sources.

PROPERTY TAX

Accounting for 5% of our revenue, property tax is levied directly on property owners. It's based on the value of their property, including land and buildings. This form of tax is crucial for specific local projects and services but represents a smaller portion of our overall revenue.

SALES TAX

A staggering 70% of our revenue comes from sales tax, including the vital 1% sales tax. Unlike property tax, sales tax is collected from everyone who purchases goods and services within the town. This broad-based approach allows for a more significant collection of funds, which are then reinvested into the community for everyone's benefit. The projects funded through the 1% sales tax are a testament to how sales tax revenue is essential for our town's growth and maintenance.

OTHER SOURCES

The remaining 25% of our revenue comes from the Road and Bridge Tax, Highway Users Tax, and various license and permit fees. These funds are allocated to specific needs and projects, further contributing to the town's development.



WHY YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MATTER

Every tax contributes to the common good, but the differences in how they are collected and what they fund are crucial. Sales tax, with its wide base and significant contribution to our revenue, plays a pivotal role in our town's development. It ensures that everyone, regardless of property ownership, contributes to and benefits from the improvements we see around us. From smoother roads to enhanced public spaces, these improvements touch the lives of every resident and visitor. In contrast, property tax, while essential, has a more targeted impact. It underscores the importance of direct contributions from property owners to the community's well-being. Together, these taxes complement each other, ensuring a balanced and equitable approach to funding our town's needs.

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