



Issue 12 North Canton Public Safety Income Tax

Voters will decide on November 6, 2018

Some North Canton Chamber members and their employees will be asked to vote on Issue 12 in the November 6 election. Businesses in North Canton could be affected if the issue passes. The North Canton Chamber is distributing this City-prepared fact sheet as a service to our members and affected voters.

Public Safety Income Tax Facts:

- **.5% Income Tax**
- **Expires after 10 years**
- **Does NOT cost residents who are retired or unemployed**
- **No increase to your property tax bill**
- **No cost to residents who work in another city and pay 2% or more tax there**
- **Cost for a resident who works in North Canton or a township and earns \$50,000 is \$250 per year, or \$4.81 a week**
- **Income tax rate has not increased since 1971**
- **Property tax has not increased since 2012**

About the proposed facility:

One building to house Police, Fire, EMS, and Dispatch

- **Centralized location allows for rapid response when you need police and fire service the most**
- **Building will last 40-50 years and be paid for in 10**
- **Significant cost savings from one new, energy efficient facility for our 24/7 safety operations**
- **Future maintenance needs of the facility are included in the plan**
- **Funding for training to keep our safety forces ready to respond to your family's emergency**

1. What are the details of the proposed tax?

The City is asking voters to approve a one-half percent increase in the municipal income tax for 10 years. This tax would be in place from 1/1/19 through 12/31/2028 and could only be used for safety purposes.

2. What would the revenue be used for?

Any revenue generated from this proposal can only be used to support our safety forces (police, fire, EMS, and dispatch). It provides for a safety facility to house all these departments. It would also set up a savings account for future maintenance of that building, because it won't be new forever. There would be money for additional training to make sure our safety forces are ready to help when you need them.

3. Didn't you just ask for an increase in taxes?

The City's income tax rate has been the same since 1971. The City property tax rate has remained unchanged since 2012.

4. How much would this increase my taxes?

This depends on where you live, work, and how much income you earn. A couple of examples are below:

- No taxable income (retired, full-time student, unemployed, etc.) – **\$0 increase in taxes**
- Live in North Canton, but work in Canton, Green, Akron, Louisville, Massillon, or any other City with a tax of at least 2% - **\$0 increase in taxes**
- Live in North Canton and work in North Canton or in a township - .5% increase in taxes; if you made \$50,000 per year this would be an extra **\$250 per year** or a little under \$5 per week.
- If a business is earning a net profit in North Canton, the tax on that net profit would increase from 1.5% to 2.0%.

5. How much would this cost an owner of a \$100,000 home?

There would be no change to your property taxes, this is all based on income.

6. Where do you plan to put the new facility?

It will be a Main Street location so that our safety forces can respond quickly to all parts of the City when they are called. Since we don't know if voters will support this proposal, we haven't moved forward to obtain the land. We don't want to reveal an exact location at this time so that we can negotiate a fair price for the property.

7. How can I hear more information or ask questions about this tax?

- Attend a Council meeting – the details are on the City's website calendar or you can watch live on YouTube via the City's feed.
- Contact the Mayor or a Council Member
- Ask a question on the City's Facebook page

8. What are the projected savings by combining multiple facilities into one?

Just by closing one of the Fire/EMS stations, we would eliminate about \$50,000 in annual costs related to utilities, maintenance contracts, and other duplicated costs. A new, state-of-the-art building to house 24/7 operations will be much more efficient than our current aging facilities.

9. If the building costs less than anticipated, or if income tax revenue continues to increase over the ten-year period, could we pay off the debt early?

Yes, we can issue bonds for 10 years with a "call" option after 7 or 8 years. There would be no penalty for prepayment of the bonds at that point and we would save interest costs for the last 2 or 3 years.

10. Do you have a design for the building? What is the RFQ document on your website?

We have an overall concept for the building (size, number and type of rooms, and features needed, etc.) but did not want to spend thousands of taxpayer dollars on architectural drawings before knowing if the community would support the project. To find the best possible team to design the building, a "Request for Qualifications" or RFQ was drafted.