Poll: Journal readers support sales tax referendum

Oconee County voters will get final say on proposal today

SALES TAX REFERENDUM
November 2014

Capital Sales Tax Referendum Priority List

Seneca library branch	$7.7M
Northern economic development water line extension	$1.15M
Indoor recreation/aquatic center	$11M
Foothills agriculture resource center	$6.705M
Westminster library renovation	$1.3M
Golden Corner Comm. Center/Southern library branch	$4.37M
Salem recreation/senior center	$736,200
Salem library branch	$2.034M
Walhalla library renovation	$1.04M
Oconee Heritage Center	$425,000

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — More than six in 10 people responding to a poll on The Journal's website over the weekend said they support a referendum to raise the sales tax in Oconee County by 1 percent for the next eight years to pay for a variety of capital projects.

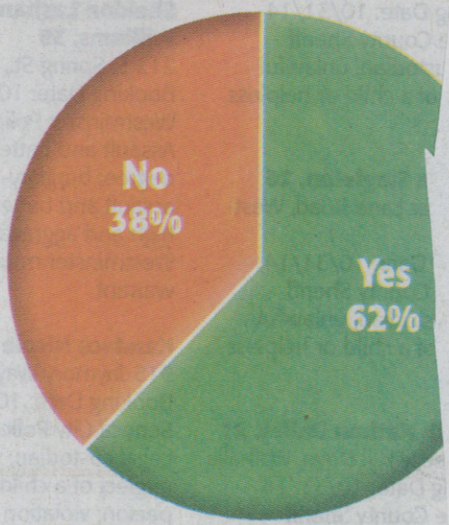
The weekend poll, which ran on UpstateToday.com from Friday to Monday, had 373 voters. A total of 230 people — 62 percent — said they supported the county's capital sales tax referendum, while 143 people — 38 percent — opposed the referendum. The poll is not scientific.

If approved in today's election, the sales tax is expected to generate about $42.7 million over its eight-year life. It could not go longer than eight years without voters approving another referendum.

A special capital sales tax commission recommended $36.5 million in building projects, which were approved by Oconee County Council earlier this year. County officials have said they would likely use bonds to

SEE **POLL**, PAGE **A5**

Do you support Oconee Cour
capital sales tax referendur



• UpstateToday.com poll re

POLL: Election ends at 7 p.m.

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pay for some of the projects before all of the money came in, bringing the total cost of the projects to about $41 million.

New libraries and renovations are among the highest priorities on the list, with a new $7.7 million Seneca branch at the top of the priority list. There would also be new libraries in Salem and southern Oconee County, as well as renovations at Walhalla and Westminster. The total cost of building and renovating the five libraries would be more than one-third of the $36.5 million price tag for the entire list.

Other projects include a northern economic development waterline expansion, $1.15 million; Oconee Indoor Recreation/Aquatic Center (YMCA), $11 million; Foothills Agricultural Resource and Marketing Center, $6.7 million; a Golden Corner Community Center, $4.374 million (including the cost of the southern Oconee library); Salem Recreation and Senior Center, $736,200; and Oconee Heritage Center renovations, $425,000.

The other referendum on the ballot in Oconee County today deals with Sunday alcohol sales, and voters will have the final say on whether alcohol can be sold on Sundays countywide as it already is in Seneca. Voters in Clemson and Pendleton will vote on similar measures.

Voters will also go to the polls to select a governor and two U.S. Senators, where incumbents are all seeking re-election, as well as three members of the Clemson City Council, school board races in Oconee and Pickens counties and four members of the Keowee Special Fire District Commission.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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