

VOTTE YES, ON APRIL 5TH

“Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar, render unto God that which is God’s” Mathew 22:21.
“This scripture is based on conversation that Jesus is having with the Israelites about being part of community and what it means to be responsible citizens that pays taxes and tithe. The word of God calls for people of faith to see ourselves as part of a community, and to be responsible for taking care of the community. It is for that reason, we must vote Yes to retain the earnings tax on April 5th.” Rev. Artist Taylor, True Vine Baptist Church CCO

The Earnings Tax Vote: April 5, 2011

What is the earnings tax? For all who work in Kansas City, Missouri there is a 1% tax on earned income. While it does not seem like a lot, this tax generates close to \$200 million in revenue. This revenue comprises nearly 40% of the City’s overall general fund.

What does this money do for the City? The city of Kansas City, Missouri uses revenue from the earnings tax to pay for things many of us take for granted. For example, the earnings tax pays for firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. With the revenue generated from this 1% earnings tax, the city is able to remove snow and ice from our roads, maintain vacant property, fix potholes in our streets, and collect our garbage every week. With these funds, critical social services are offered to our seniors and to those who are homeless.

What happens if the earnings tax is eliminated? Due to the economic recession, the city of Kansas City is already facing a budget crisis. A loss of 40% general revenues would devastate our current, remaining resources. In order to keep our essential city services, the City would need to replace the earnings tax with alternative taxes to make up for lost revenue. The City could choose to raise the local sales tax by more than double its current rate, from 2.38% to 5.4%. As this local sales tax is in addition to county and state sales taxes, purchases in Kansas City would carry a tax rate of close to 10.75%. A second option would be to increase the current property tax by nearly 400% to make up for the lost revenue. In either scenario, it would become more expensive to live and shop in Kansas City, Missouri.

What Can I Do?: Vote YES on April 5th to keep the earnings tax and keep Kansas City strong. You can also engage your congregation and community about this critical issue, and urge them to show their support for the earnings tax.

“Seek the welfare of the city where you have been sent into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” Jeremiah 29.7

“We see the renewal of the Earnings Tax as a justice and an equity issue. We must renew the e-tax so our city can be renewed.” Rev. Margaret Roberts, MORE² Clergy Caucus



For more information visit:

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