

INITIATIVE PETITION

JONESBORO PUBLIC SAFETY SALES AND USE TAX ELECTION

To the Honorable April Leggett, City Clerk for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and to the Jonesboro City Council: We, the undersigned registered voters of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, respectfully propose the following initiative, and by this petition, order that the same be submitted to the people of said municipality, to the end that the same may be adopted, enacted, or rejected by the vote of the registered voters of said municipality at the regular general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026, and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the State of Arkansas and of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas; and my printed name, date of birth, residence address, city of residence, and date of signing this petition are correctly written after my signature. The Popular Name is JONESBORO PUBLIC SAFETY SALES AND USE TAX ELECTION, and the ballot title and full text are attached or affixed hereto.

No.	Signature	Printed Name	Date of Birth	Residence	City or Town of Residence	County	Date of Signing
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

State of Arkansas, County of Craighead

I, _____, being sworn, state that each of the foregoing persons signed his or her own name to this sheet of the petition in my presence. To the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature is genuine and each signer is a registered voter of the State of Arkansas, in the County listed. At all times during the circulation of this signature sheet, an exact copy of the Popular Name, Ballot Title, and text was attached to this signature sheet. My current residence address is correctly stated below.

Signature _____

Current Residence _____

Indicate one: () Paid Canvasser () Volunteer/Unpaid Canvasser

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared _____, well known to me (or satisfactorily proven by identification documents provided) to be the person described in the foregoing Canvasser Affidavit and acknowledged that s/he executed the same in capacity of a Canvasser for the purposes of fulfilling legal requirements of a Canvasser in the State of Arkansas; and that I personally witnessed the signature of the Canvasser.

Signature of Notary _____

My Commission Expires _____

Residence County of Notary _____

FILED

JUL 08 2026

[Notary Seal]
COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

Popular Name:

Jonesboro Public Safety Sales And Use Tax Election

Ballot Title:

Calling for an election requesting the levy of a new five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) sales and use tax within the City of Jonesboro, the net collections of which after deduction of the administrative charges of the State of Arkansas and required rebates shall be used for the sole and restricted purpose of funding new and existing public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations, including one or more of the following (i) to pay the costs of new, improvements to existing, and the future renovation, improvement, and repair of facilities and equipment used to support and promote public safety, including particularly, without limitation, land acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of one or more stand alone or co-located fire stations, police stations, first responder operations centers, emergency services buildings, communication centers, animal services buildings, code enforcement offices, and safe rooms, street lighting, cameras and monitoring equipment, emergency vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, protective and support gear for public safety personnel, and technology hardware and software, together with extension and relocation of utilities, related administrative offices, traffic signals, project site infrastructure and drainage, parking, furnishings, and equipment, (ii) to pay the costs of operation, maintenance, and providing of public safety services, initiatives, facilities, and infrastructure and related costs, including, but not limited to, costs of utilities, salaries, wages, and benefits, and (iii) to pay and secure the repayment of bonds approved by the voters and issued by the City from time to time to finance public safety facilities and infrastructure.

Ordinance Levying Tax

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A CITY-WIDE FIVE-EIGHTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.625%) SALES AND USE TAX; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO

WHEREAS, under the authority granted pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §26-75-307(b) and Article 5, §1 of the Arkansas Constitution, citizens of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas (the "City") have presented a petition to the Jonesboro City Clerk and to the Jonesboro City Council requesting that the City call an election on the levy of a new five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) sales and use tax dedicated to public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City has determined that the City is in need of an additional source of revenue to be used for the sole and restricted purpose of funding new and existing public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations, including one or more of the following (i) to pay the costs of new, improvements to existing, and the future renovation, improvement, and repair of facilities and equipment used to support and promote public safety, including particularly, without limitation, land acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of one or more stand alone or co-located fire stations, police stations, first responder operations centers, emergency services buildings, communication centers, animal services buildings, code enforcement offices, and safe rooms, street lighting, cameras and monitoring equipment, emergency vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, protective and support gear for public safety personnel, and technology hardware and software, together with extension and relocation of utilities, related administrative offices, traffic signals, project site infrastructure and drainage, parking, furnishings, and equipment, (ii) to pay the costs of operation, maintenance, and providing of public safety

services, initiatives, facilities, and infrastructure and related costs, including, but not limited to, costs of utilities, salaries, wages, and benefits, and (iii) to pay and secure the repayment of bonds approved by the voters and issued by the City from time to time to finance public safety facilities and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Title 26, Chapter 75, Subchapter 3 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated (the "Authorizing Legislation") provides for the levy of city-wide sales and use taxes at the rate of 0.125%, 0.25%, 0.5%, 0.75% or 1%, or any combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to levy an additional City-wide sales and use tax at the rate of 0.625%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas:

Section 1. Under the authority of the Authorizing Legislation, there is hereby levied a five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) tax on the gross receipts from the sale at retail within the City of all items which are subject to the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941, as amended (A.C.A. §§26-52-101, *et seq.*), and the imposition of an excise (or use) tax on the storage, use, distribution or other consumption within the City of tangible personal property subject to the Arkansas Compensating Tax Act of 1949, as amended (A.C.A. §§26-53-101, *et seq.*), at a rate of five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) of the sale price of the property or, in the case of lease or rentals, of the lease or rental price (collectively, the "Sales and Use Tax"). The Sales and Use Tax shall be levied and collected on the gross receipts, gross proceeds or sales price in the maximum amount allowed from time to time under Arkansas law, subject to rebates and limitations as from time to time required by Arkansas statutes for certain single transactions.

Section 2. The Sales and Use Tax shall be levied, and the net collections received after deduction of the administrative charges of the State of Arkansas and required rebates shall be used for the sole and restricted purpose of funding new and existing public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations, including one or more of the following (i) to pay the costs of new, improvements to existing, and the future renovation, improvement, and repair of facilities and equipment used to support and promote public safety, including particularly, without limitation, land acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of one or more stand alone or co-located fire stations, police stations, first responder operations centers, emergency services buildings, communication centers, animal services buildings, code enforcement offices, and safe rooms, street lighting, cameras and monitoring equipment, emergency vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, protective and support gear for public safety personnel, and technology hardware and software, together with extension and relocation of utilities, related administrative offices, traffic signals, project site infrastructure and drainage, parking, furnishings, and equipment, (ii) to pay the costs of operation, maintenance, and providing of public safety services, initiatives, facilities, and infrastructure and related costs, including, but not limited to, costs of utilities, salaries, wages, and benefits, and (iii) to pay and secure the repayment of bonds approved by the voters and issued by the City from time to time to finance public safety facilities and infrastructure.

Section 3. All ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall not take effect until an election is held on the question of levying the Sales and Use Tax at which a majority of the electors voting on the question shall have approved the levy of the Sales and Use Tax.

Ordinance Calling Election

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ON THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A CITY-WIDE FIVE-EIGHTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.625%) SALES AND USE TAX; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

WHEREAS, under the authority granted pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §26-75-307(b) and Article 5, §1 of the Arkansas Constitution, citizens of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas (the "City") have presented a petition to the Jonesboro City Clerk and to the Jonesboro City Council requesting that the City call an election on the levy of a new five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) sales and use tax dedicated to public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. _____, the City has levied the tax; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to call a special election on the question of the levy of the Sales and Use Tax (defined below).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas:

Section 1. There is hereby called a special election to be held on November 3, 2026, at which election there shall be submitted to the electors of the City the question of the levy of a new five-eighths of one percent (0.625%) sales and use tax dedicated to public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations as authorized by Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 26-75-301 *et seq.* (the "Sales and Use Tax").

Section 2. The question of levying the Sales and Use Tax shall be placed on the ballot for the election in substantially the following form:

0.625% SALES AND USE TAX

Adoption of a 0.625% local sales and use tax within the City of Jonesboro, the net collections of which after deduction of the administrative charges of the State of Arkansas and required rebates shall be used for the sole and restricted purpose of funding new and existing public safety services, initiatives, facilities, infrastructure, maintenance, and operations, including one or more of the following (i) to pay the costs of new, improvements to existing, and the future renovation, improvement, and repair of facilities and equipment used to support and promote public safety, including particularly, without limitation, land acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of one or more stand alone or co-located fire stations, police stations, first responder operations centers, emergency services buildings, communication centers, animal services buildings, code enforcement offices, and safe rooms, street lighting, cameras and monitoring equipment, emergency vehicles, apparatus, and equipment, protective and support gear for public safety personnel, and technology hardware and software, together with extension and relocation of utilities, related administrative offices, traffic signals, project site infrastructure and drainage, parking, furnishings, and equipment, (ii) to pay the costs of operation, maintenance, and providing of public safety services, initiatives, facilities, and infrastructure and related costs, including, but not limited to, costs of utilities, salaries, wages, and benefits, and (iii) to pay and secure the repayment of bonds approved by the voters and issued by the City from time to time to finance public safety facilities and infrastructure.

FOR

AGAINST

Section 3. The election shall be held and conducted and the vote canvassed and the results declared under the law and in the manner now provided for municipal elections and only qualified voters of the City shall have the right to vote at the election.

Section 4. The results of the election shall be proclaimed by the Mayor, and such Proclamation shall be published one time in a newspaper having a general circulation in the City, which Proclamation shall advise that the results as proclaimed shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within thirty days after the date of publication.

Section 5. A copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Craighead County Clerk at least 60 days prior to the election date. A copy of this Ordinance shall also be given to the Craighead County Board of Election Commissioners so that the necessary election officials and supplies may be provided. A certified copy of this Ordinance and the Tax Ordinance shall also be provided to the Commissioner of Revenues of the State of Arkansas as soon as practical.

Section 6. The Mayor and City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City, are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to call and hold the special election as herein provided and, if the levy of the Sales and Use Tax is approved by the electors, to cause the Sales and Use Tax to be collected, and to perform all acts of whatever nature necessary to carry out the authority conferred by this Ordinance.

Section 7. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be separable and if any provision shall for any reason be held illegal or invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.


Section 8. All ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Instructions to Canvassers and Signers

1. Under the Arkansas Constitution, citizens have the power to (a) initiate legislation by petition of 8% of the legal voters, (b) initiate constitutional amendments by petition of 10% of legal voters, or (c) order a referendum on any general act or any item of an appropriation bill or measure passed by the General Assembly by petition of 6% of legal voters. A proposed measure must be submitted at a regular election. Referendum petitions may be referred at special elections on petition of 15% of the registered voters. Any measure submitted to the people becomes law when approved by a majority of the votes cast upon such measure.
2. Only registered voters may sign. All signatures must be in the signer's own handwriting and in the presence of the person circulating the petition. Each petition part should contain only the signatures of voters residing in a single county. The signature is not valid if it is obtained after the next general election following the ballot title certification under A.C.A. § 7-9-107.
3. A signer must provide his or her photo identification as defined in A.C.A. § 7-1-101(40), printed name, date of birth, residence, city or town of residence, and date of signing. If, due to a disability, a petition signer needs help providing this information, another person may print the signer's information, and that person must sign and print her or her name in the petition's margin.
4. A canvasser must be both a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Arkansas. Paid canvassers must also hold domicile in the State of Arkansas. Each canvasser must file a true affidavit, described in A.C.A. § 7-9-111, with the Secretary of State.
5. Under A.C.A. § 7-9-103, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and confinement of up to one year in jail, if the person:
 - Knowingly:
 - Signs a name other than his or her name to a petition;
 - Signs his or her name more than once on a petition;
 - Signs a petition when he or she is not legally entitled to do so;
 - Prints a name, address, or birth date other than his or her own to a petition; or
 - Prints the date of signing for another person, unless the signer requires assistance due to disability and the person complies with A.C.A. § 7-9-103.
 - While acting as a canvasser, notary, sponsor as defined under A.C.A. § 7-9-101, or as a sponsor's agent:
 - Knowingly misrepresents the purpose and effect of the petition or the measure for the purpose of causing a person to sign a petition;
 - Solicits or obtains a petition signature knowing that the person signing is not qualified to sign the petition;
 - Knowingly pays a person any form of compensation for signing a petition as a petitioner; or
 - Accepts or pays money or anything of value for obtaining petition signatures when the person acting as a canvasser, sponsor, or agent of a sponsor knows that the person acting as a canvasser's name or address is not included on the sponsor's list filed with the Secretary of State under A.C.A. § 7-9-601.
 - While acting as a canvasser, knowingly accepts a petition signature, and prior to the signing:
 - Fails to either (a) witness the signer read the petition's ballot title, or (b) read aloud the petition's ballot title to the signer; or
 - Fails to either (a) verbally disclose or (b) provide written notice separate from the petition to the potential signer that petition fraud is a criminal offense;
 - While acting as a sponsor or as sponsor's agent:
 - Knowingly hires a paid canvasser who is not both a resident of this state and domiciled in this state;¹ or

- Files a petition part with the official verifying signatures knowing that the petition part contains one or more false or fraudulent signatures, unless the sponsor clearly strikes each false or fraudulent signature before filing.

6. Under A.C.A. §§ 5-55-601 and 7-9-109, a person commits a Class D FELONY, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to six years imprisonment, if the person:
 - While acting as a canvasser:
 - Knowingly makes a false statement on a petition verification form; or
 - Witnesses signatures on a petition part but knowingly allows another canvasser who did not witness all signatures on a petition part to execute a false verification affidavit with respect to that petition part.
 - While acting as a sponsor, sponsor's agent, or representative:
 - Knowingly pays a canvasser for petitioner signatures on a petition part not personally witnessed by that paid canvasser; or
 - Knowingly submits to the Secretary of State a petition part where the verifying canvasser has not witnessed each signature on that petition part.
7. Under A.C.A. § 7-9-117, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and confinement of up to one year in jail, if the person:
 - Knowingly:
 - Changes, erases, intentionally destroys, or discards a petition signature other than his or her own petition signature;
 - Pays a person any form of compensation for not signing a petition as a petitioner or for destroying a petition signature;
 - Accepts or pays money or anything of value for not obtaining signatures on a petition when the person is included on the sponsor's list filed with the Secretary of State under A.C.A. § 7-9-601;
 - When acting as a canvasser,
 - Misrepresents the purpose and effect of the petition or measure affected to cause a person not to sign the petition.
8. Under A.C.A. § 7-9-601, a person commits a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to one year in jail, if the person pays or offers to pay a person, or receives payment or agrees to receive payment, on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained on a statewide petition.


Tim Griffin
Attorney General

¹ Effective August 5, 2025. See Act 453 of 2025, Ark. Att'y Gen. Op. 2025-032.

² Effective August 5, 2025. See Act 453 of 2025, Ark. Att'y Gen. Op. 2025-032.