

WEST PLAINS HOTEL/MOTEL TAX: KNOW THE FACTS!



ELECTION: APRIL 2, 2019

BALLOT LANGUAGE

PROPOSITION 1

Shall the City of West Plains, Missouri increase the gross receipts license tax on hotels and motels from 2 percent to 5 percent of the gross daily rental receipts due from or paid by transient guests, such gross receipts license tax to be used for tourism development, economic development, and/or the creation of the Community Development Grant Program?

■ YES ■ NO

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the hotel/motel tax and who does it affect?

The hotel/motel tax is collected on gross rental receipts for guests at hotels and motels in West Plains. For the most part, those who are paying the tax are visitors and not local residents.

How does West Plains' hotel/motel tax rate compare with other Missouri cities?

West Plains' hotel/motel tax rate is 2 percent, which is the state minimum, making West Plains' current rate the lowest in the state. Other cities of comparable size in Missouri, such as Washington, Sedalia and Hannibal, all have a 5 percent rate.

Where does this tax revenue go?

Revenue generated from the tax goes to support the staffing and day-to-day operations of the Ozark Heritage Welcome Center here in West Plains. Those funds are also used to help support local events in town, such as the Old Time Music Ozark Heritage Festival and the Home & Garden Show.

If additional revenue is raised, how would that money be spent?

Additional revenue could be made available through a Community Development Grant program, which would allow individuals or organizations to apply for funding to support tourism-related events, activities or projects that would bring people into town.