



DANA UPDATE

The newsletter of the
Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association

March 2019
(electronic mail version)

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LOCAL OPTION SALES AND SERVICES TAX ELECTION INFORMATION

On **March 5, 2019**, residents of the City of Des Moines will vote on the imposition of a 1% local option sales and services tax that, if approved, will raise the overall sales and services tax rate in the city to 7%. The tax will be imposed on the same sales and services that by state law are currently taxed at 6%. The additional money collected will be allocated by law as follows.

(a) 50% allocation for property tax relief

- (i) \$0.60 reduction to the total tax levy rate for the city per \$1,000 valuation on regular property.
- (ii) The City Council acknowledges that the City Manager has identified the additional financial resources that are necessary to maintain acceptable levels of city services and neighborhood investments which, without the availability of local option sales and services tax revenues, would require an additional increase to the total tax levy rate for the city on regular property of \$1.50 per \$1,000 valuation.
- (iii) This City Council acknowledgment reflects City Council's intent to stabilize the total tax levy rate for the city on regular property and avoid any such increase.

(b) 50% allocation for lawful purposes of the city in three categories

(i) Street improvements and flood prevention

- Accelerate completion of street improvements under the five-year street maintenance improvement plan. Street improvements initially identified for the accelerated completion include, but are not limited to, Fleur Drive, Pennsylvania Avenue, and East Court Avenue.
- Accelerate completion of storm water improvements to reduce the impact of future flooding including, but not limited to Four Mile Creek, Closes Creek, Yeader Creek, and other areas susceptible to flooding.

(ii) Neighborhood improvements

- Establish a Blitz on Blight effort involving a significant investment for removing blight in neighborhoods throughout the city.
- Make other substantial improvements to neighborhoods throughout the city including, but not limited to, streets, sidewalks, and parks as required to meet and maintain community standards for condition and use.
- Expand requirements for rental housing in neighborhoods with stronger enforcement.
- Expand hours of operation for libraries.

(iii) Public safety improvements and expenditures

- Make fire station improvements throughout the city.
- Provide ongoing funding for 13 firefighter positions for which federal funding expired in December 2018.
- Modernize public safety equipment and expand training.
- Provide additional support for mobile crisis services to accommodate youth.

A similar proposal was defeated at a [special election on March 6, 2018](#), where multiple contiguous cities, including Des Moines, voted as one voting bloc. On March 5, 2019, Des Moines will vote by itself to determine whether the tax will be imposed in the city. More information about the election is available [here](#). You will be required to show a valid ID in order to vote.

The Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association and its board of directors does not take a position on how you should vote. This newsletter is intended to provide information only to the neighborhood about this important question that will have a significant impact upon our city. The Board urges every resident of Des Moines who is a qualified voter to vote on March 5, 2019.

2019 SCRUB SCHEDULE

The newly released SCRUB schedule can be found at [here](#) or [here](#). SCRUB is an acronym for **S**pring **C**leanup to **R**educe **U**rban **B**light, a program offered by the City of Des Moines Department of Public Works to give residents an opportunity to dispose of yard waste and other debris to reduce blight. SCRUB Days are the following Saturdays: March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, and November 16 at various locations. More information is available [here](#).

Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association
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Des Moines, IA 50317

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You are Invited!

What: DANA Neighborhood Meeting

When
and Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

Where: Staves Methodist Church
2747 E Madison Ave