

Improve Our Tulsa 2: Higher permanent sales tax rate, no sales tax for streets

This chart shows the current allocation of City of Tulsa and Tulsa County sales taxes, with the proposed changes on the November 12, 2019, ballot highlighted with a heavy black boundary.

Tulsa County's "Vision 2025" 0.6% sales tax expired at the end of 2016. The City of Tulsa proposed a combination of temporary and permanent taxes that begins at 0.55% for 4½ years, climbs to 1.15% for 4 years, shrinks back to 0.65% for 6½ years, and then leaves a permanent increase of 0.345%. Tulsa County proposed a 0.05% increase for 15 years. These new taxes were approved in April 2016.

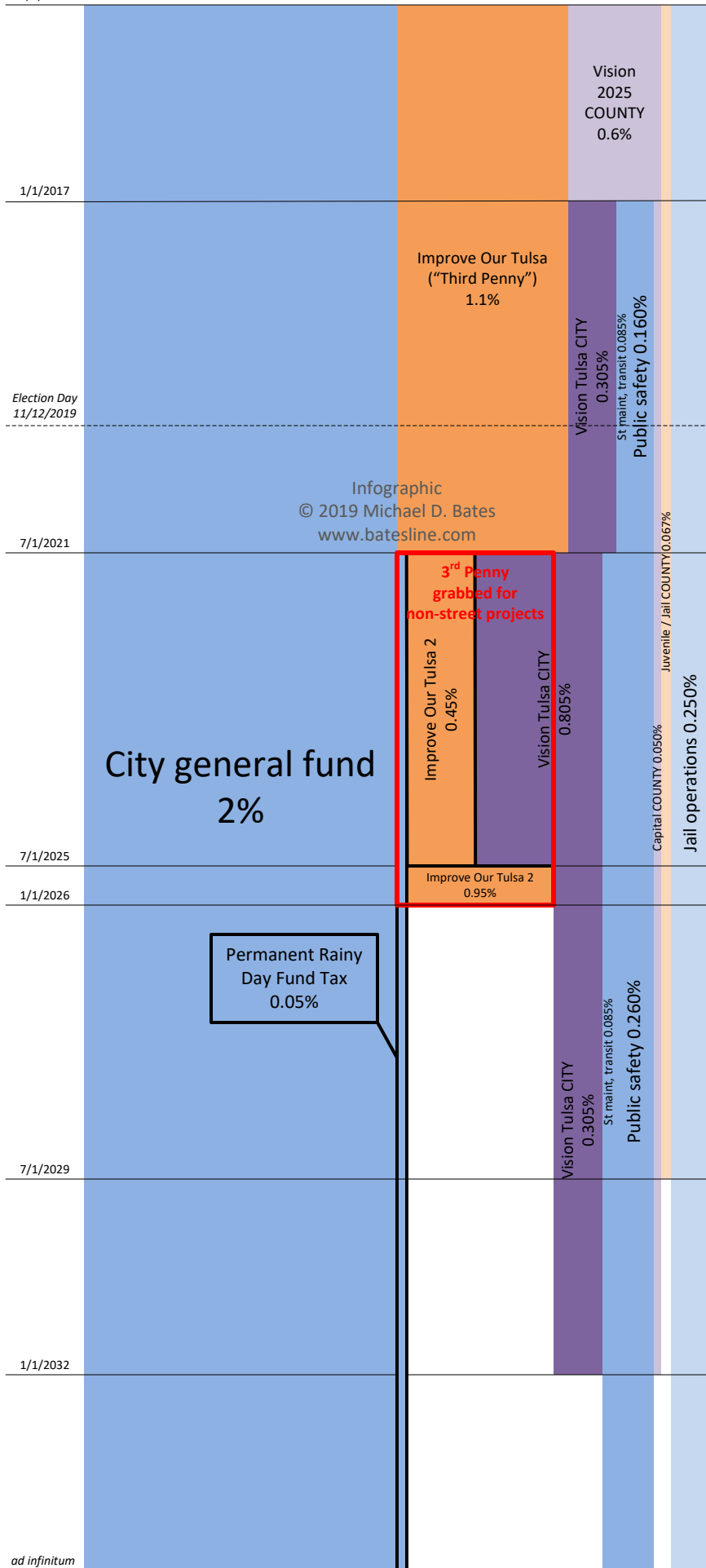
Starting in 1980, Tulsa citizens have approved a series of temporary sales taxes, earmarked for streets, reservoirs, sewers, stormwater system, and other fundamental city infrastructure. Because the original tax was an additional 1% levied on top of the 2% sales tax for the city's general fund, it became known as the "Third Penny."

The current "Third Penny," approved in November 2013 and known as "Improve Our Tulsa," is 1.1% and it expires on June 30, 2021. Proposition 3 of Vision Tulsa, approved in 2016, grabs a half-penny from that expiring "Third Penny" and puts it toward projects that include building two new low-water dams in the Arkansas River. Another 0.1% from the expiring tax will go to increasing the permanent tax for public safety operational costs, leaving only a ½ penny for a new streets package.

If Tulsa voters approve Propositions 1 and 2 on November 12, 2019, another 0.05% permanent sales tax will go into effect for the "Rainy Day Fund," and a temporary 0.45% will go into effect for four years, increasing to 0.95% when the "dam bulge" from Vision Tulsa expires on June 30, 2025, for six months. The new taxes will go into effect when the existing Improve Our Tulsa tax expires, no later than June 30, 2021. The Rainy Day tax would be permanent, but the "almost 3rd penny" would expire on December 31, 2025. If approved, the city's permanent sales tax rate would be 2.395% and the temporary sales tax rate would be 1.255%, for a total city sales tax rate of 3.65%. The Tulsa County sales tax rate will remain at 0.367%, and the State of Oklahoma sales tax rate at 4.5%, for a total sales tax rate in Tulsa city limits of 8.517%.

Note that none of the sales tax revenue in the Improve Our Tulsa 2 package would be spent on streets.

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LEGEND

CITY	COUNTY	
		Permanent tax for operational expenses
		"Vision" projects
		Capital improvements ("Third Penny", "4 to Fix")
		In effect
		Proposed

VERTICAL SCALE
0.5" = 1 year

HORIZONTAL SCALE
1" = 1% sales tax rate

approximately 1% sales tax for 1 year (CITY)