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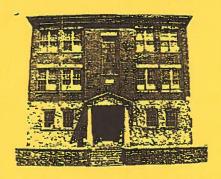
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OR CONTACT MICHAEL FERRIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS
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Classes or groups desiring to be seated together may reserve tables of 10 which must be purchased as a unit with a one-time payment.

For information, contact Annease Chaney Jones acjones64@aol.com, 404-349-0430



FAQs: What you need to know about the referendum

By Ariel Hart

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

9:45 a.m. Monday, June 4, 2012

Q: What's this thing called?

A: "T-SPLOST" is probably the most popular name among insiders, but officially, that's wrong. (The campaign points out that the "L" for "local" in this case would have to be "R" for "regional.") Advocates would like everyone to call it the Regional Transportation Referendum, and that's the term they use to link to their resources. The law that set up the referendum is called the Transportation Investment Act of 2010, so some resources are also found under that or the term "TIA." Most opponents' resources are found under "T-SPLOST."

Q: Who votes?

A: In the Atlanta region, all voters in the 10-county region – Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale – vote together.

Q: If the tax fails in one county, but passes in the other counties, do that county's taxpayers still have to pay?

A: Yes. For the first time, the region will vote as a region and be taxed, or not, as a region.

Q: How much will the tax raise?

A: According to predictions by the state economist, it would raise \$7.2 billion over 10 years, in 2011 dollars. With inflation, that's \$8.5 billion.

Q: How much of that would be spent on transportation?

A: According to the law, all of it. Most, 85 percent, would go towards a regional list of specific projects that was drawn up last year. That's \$6.14 billion pre-inflation. A smaller portion, 15 percent, would be up to cities and counties to spend on transportation however they choose. That's \$1.1 billion pre-inflation.

Q: What's in the metro Atlanta list?

A: Just over 48 percent of the money goes to roads, and just under 52 percent goes to trains and buses. A little bit goes to trails and bicycle/pedestrian projects. To see details on all 157 projects, see the websites below.

A: Opponents generally say something needs to be done, but this isn't it. From the right, they say the project list is too heavy on mass transit, and transit won't help enough commuters. From the left, they say there's not enough transit, and maybe if this fails the region will vote for a new list with more transit, or all transit.

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: AJC resources and unparalleled coverage:

http://www.ajc.com/news/transportation-referendum

Nonpartisan:

http://www.metroatlantatransportationreferendum.com/

http://atlantaregional.com/

http://www.it3.ga.gov/Pages/Legislation.aspx

"Education" campaign:

http://transformmetroatlanta.com/

Campaign to pass the tax:

http://transformmetroatlanta.com/

Campaigns against the tax:

http://traffictruth.net/

http://tsplost.com

http://tsplost.info

http://fayettecountyissuesteaparty.org

http://www.GaTaxpayer.com

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http://www.ajc.com/news/transportation-referendum/fags-what-you-need-1451877.html