



DAVIESS/DEKALB REGIONAL JAIL

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The Daviess DeKalb Regional Jail board (DDRJ) is asking for a ½ cent sales tax increase for jail operations on the April ballot. A ½ cent sales tax was passed in both Daviess and DeKalb Counties to establish DDRJ in 2005. For many years, this sales tax and revenues for housing outside agency inmates supported the jail's operations, greatly relieving financial stress on Daviess and DeKalb Counties. Throughout the years, inmate holds from outside agencies have decreased, reducing the jails' income from these holds, and numerous expenses to the jail have increased. Insurance rates continue to skyrocket for the jail, increasing by over \$100,000 in the last few years.

By statute, both Daviess and DeKalb counties are responsible for equally covering funds for the jail during shortcomings. While the past and current boards have been able to maintain a balance with funding for the jail without asking for additional taxes from the people, increased costs and diminished revenues have caused financial issues. For the past two years, DDRJ has needed supplemental money from each of the counties to balance its budget. These supplemental funds have increased for each county, with Daviess and DeKalb Counties budgeting \$300,000 each for the 2025 year. These supplemental funds are very taxing on all offices in both counties.

The current ½ cent sales tax is not enough to even cover the expenses of payroll for DDRJ. While the financial shortcomings of the jail are negative for each county, the regional jail does and will continue to be a financial benefit for both. The cost to house individually would be around one million dollars for each county without the current sales tax. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance we maintain the regional jail for both counties. The additional ½ cent sales tax will ensure that DDRJ can remain funded without parent counties' contributions, allowing them to continue to serve the people to the best of their ability. The additional sales tax will also be used to help improve the aging DDRJ facility and be used for long-term solutions for the jails' future. We would humbly ask for your support of this measure and vote yes on funding the additional ½ cent sales tax for Daviess DeKalb Regional Jail.

**Jim Ruse, Daviess County Presiding Commissioner ~ Larry Adams Jr., Daviess County Sheriff
Kyle Carroll, Dekalb County Presiding Commissioner ~ Kasey Keesaman, Dekalb County Sheriff**