

## Farmington City

### Argument in Favor of a .1 % increase in sales tax for recreation, arts and parks (RAP) Election Proposition

The City is proposing to build a gym with 2 full size basketball courts and a new 43 acre park with soccer and football fields, bowery, playground area, and a 4-plex softball / baseball complex. These facilities are necessary for the City to maintain and enhance the recreational programs that are being offered.

With the School District hoping to start construction of the High School in the spring of 2016, the City needs to replace the soccer and football fields that are currently being used on that property. Along with these fields, there will be a softball / baseball 4-plex built in the new park. This will allow the City to expand the baseball program and offer softball leagues for the first time. Offering softball leagues for all ages will greatly enhance the recreational programs.

The park will cost around \$5,000,000. The City has some money saved but the majority will have to come from other revenue sources. The proposed RAP tax would increase the sales tax rate here in Farmington by .1% from 6.5% to 6.6% . This will raise around \$2,000,000 over a 10 year period. A revenue bond for around \$1,700,000 would be issued with the proceeds being used to build the park. The revenue bond would be paid off over the 10 year period with the proceeds from the RAP tax that will be collected. With the new growth of Station Park, this is a great time to implement a RAP tax rate increase in the sales tax rate, as sales taxes are growing and the City will benefit from the increases in sales taxes. Around 50 to 60% of all sales generated in the City are paid by people who live outside of Farmington. The RAP tax is another way of raising needed revenue to build the park and spreading the burden of constructing these facilities to more than just property owners of the City. This added revenue source will greatly help in the construction of the new 43 acre park. It will allow the City to build soccer and football fields, along with the softball / baseball 4-plex in the first phase of the park. This will greatly enhance the City's recreational programs and ensure that the current programs remain strong.

Without the RAP tax increase, the park would have to be built over several years and may not have all the amenities that the City wants for recreational programs. This would negatively affect all of the recreational programs that the City currently offers and would require the City to place limits on enrollments in various programs.

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