Why you should vote for half-cent sales tax

On Tuesday, November 8, registered voters who live within the legal boundary of the city of Rapid City will have an opportunity to go to the polls and decide on the face of the half-cent sales tax. Others, like me, who live just beyond the city limits, cannot.

I cannot vote in the upcoming mandated measure. You can. If I could, I would vote in favor of it. But since I have to vote in the measure, please do yourself and me a favor and your vote in favor of the half-cent sales tax.

Yes, I’m willing to pay it, even through I have no vote.

There are a lot of reasons for voting yes in the ballot box. And frankly, there are very few reasons for voting no.

One point in favor of the tax is that it is already in place, and you won’t see any change when you make your purchase.

Another is, the tax is minor. If you earn $12,000 a year, and spend half of that on items subject to the sales tax, you pay only 75c.

The mayor and city council have done a marvelous job in bringing this tax to the public.

They have not tried to run it down anyone’s throat. They have asked for public input. In fact, they have pleased my heart in bringing a group of people together after group after group, asking other groups in the community what to put in the half-cent sales tax revenue.

While the city is concerned with most of the proposals, it is not what you might want, or what you might think is best. The city is doing the best it can with existing facilities.

Another says: They talk about a world-class museum. But they have no idea what they are talking about. They might mean something like the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., or the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. We can’t afford something like that, and we would be cut-off-place.

And still another worries: They haven’t come out and really committed to how they will spend the money. I’m not sure that I want the politicians years down the road to spend the money wisely.

There are so many options, and when you vote, you have to make an educated guess.

When you vote yes, you are supporting a half-cent sales tax to build an indoor athletic facility when we have a perfectly good YMCA.

The last thing you need is for the city to complete with existing facilities.

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