

RESOLUTION No. 2014 - 19

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE CITIZENS OF SEARCY AND WHITE COUNTY TO VOTE AGAINST THE COUNTY-WIDE SALES AND USE TAX FOR FIRE PREVENTION NEEDS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE INEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH PROCEEDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEARCY, TO-WIT:

WHEREAS, the White County Quorum Court has proposed a county-wide sales and use tax which will be voted on at the general election on November 4, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposed sales and use tax would be a ¼ cent sales and use tax on all sales in White County including the City of Searcy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revenue generated from the sales tax levy is to be distributed to the 30 various fire protection districts within the county not based on either need or population but instead on an equal basis; and

WHEREAS, Searcy, Arkansas, based on the latest census represents 29.65% of the total population of White County, but would receive only 3.448% of all sales tax collections; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance does not contain a “sunset” provision and would therefore be perpetual in nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, to-wit:

Section 1. That the proposed “fire protection” sales tax levy, if adopted, using an equal distribution method of the sales tax to all county fire departments would be grossly unfair and detrimental to the citizens of the City of Searcy as to their fire protection needs.

Section 2. That the proposed sales tax levy ordinance for such “fire protection” efforts in White County does not impose any review and oversight procedure for the use of the sales tax proceeds which could allow for the improper use or purposes by unelected officials accountable to no one but themselves.

Section 3. That the proposed sales tax levy would harm the citizens of Searcy, Arkansas, by allowing for the distribution of 96.552% or hundreds of thousands of dollars annually of the sales tax revenue to the other county fire districts while only distributing 3.448% to nearly a third of the county population.

Section 4. The Searcy City Council encourages the citizens of Searcy, and of White County, to reject the proposed levy by voting against the proposed ordinance so that such an unjust and inequitable plan to distribute 96.552% of such tax dollars to unelected officials would not happen.

Section 5. The Searcy City Council encourages the Citizens of Searcy, as well as the citizens of White County, to VOTE AGAINST the proposed ¼ cent sales tax proposal on November 4, 2014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

/s/ David Morris  
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
City Clerk