



October 19, 2017

As Chairman of the Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce, I wanted to write and share with our community and our membership information about the proposed renewal of the SPLOST in the November election. Voting YES on the SPLOST referendum is an important way to support the basic needs of our community such as transportation, roads, economic development, retail business recruitment, public safety and healthcare. There is no more important contribution to our community, both now and in the future, than ensuring that there are resources available to meet our community's needs and to protect its future.

I would like to share a few thoughts about why I believe that SPLOST is so vital to the needs of our community:

- This is the renewal of an existing 1% sales and use tax; THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX;
- SPLOST funds have been used in the past to provide necessary infrastructure and capital improvements that support our every-day lives, such as:
  - Replacement of capital projects such as mowers, pavers, and heavy equipment;
  - Improvement of our roads and bridges, sewers and water systems;
  - Provide for needs in public safety such as providing vehicles, communications and equipment for our police, sheriff and fire department;
  - Fund economic development efforts which target bringing new industry and job growth to our community.
- Because of our I-16 interchange, much of the tax dollars will be collected from travelers who stop, use our services, and then move on to their destination. By voting for SPLOST you can ensure that they help pay for the services we need to maintain our beautiful community;
- 20% of the SPLOST collected will be utilized for a capital project to retire the debt of the hospital. The hospital is a vital part of our community's healthcare solution and vital to our efforts to recruit and retain business, grow industry, and provide needed, basic services in our community.

The SPLOST dollars that are collected from this referendum will be collected from 2018-2024 and will provide ongoing resources to support our local governments, industrial authority and hospital. The Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce strongly urges all members and citizens to vote YES for SPLOST this November.

Vote YES and help ensure that that in the future Everything is Better in Metter.

Sincerely,

Bryan Aasheim  
Chairman, Metter-Candler Chamber of Commerce