

Charter Ordinance Ballot Information Sheet

On February 28, 2012, Wichita voters will have the opportunity to approve or deny Charter Ordinance 216.

Charter Ordinance 216 proposes to amend a current Charter Ordinance to provide that for a period of 15 years, the developers would receive a rebate of 75% of guest tax revenues collected from visitors staying at the Ambassador Hotel to reimburse them for costs associated with redeveloping the hotel. The remaining 25% of the guest tax revenues will be used to promote tourism within the City. After the 15th year of such hotel's operation, the 75% rebate will end and all guest tax revenues will be expended to promote tourism within the city.

City ordinances provide for a guest tax of six percent for all hotel rooms within the City. The tax is used by the City to pay debt obligations for downtown hotels, convention centers and to promote tourism within the City. The election will not change the assessment or the collection of the six percent guest tax.

The question appearing on the ballot is mandated by provisions of the Kansas Constitution. It is required that the number and the formal title of the Charter Ordinance be identified, along with the language shall the charter ordinance take effect. The formal title of the Charter Ordinance is also mandated by the constitution. To comply with the constitutional requirements, the ballot question reads:

SHALL CHARTER ORDINANCE 216 ENTITLED: "A CHARTER ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPEALING SECTION 1 OF CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 213, OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, WHICH AMENDED AND REPEALED SECTION 1 OF CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 183 OF THE CITY OF WICHITA WHICH AMENDED AND REPEALED SECTION 1 OF CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 174 OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION OF REVENUES FROM THE TRANSIENT GUEST TAX" TAKE EFFECT?

YES ____ NO ____

A "No" vote would indicate that Charter Ordinance 216 **should not** go into effect, and the City **may not** reallocate 75% of the guest tax collected **for 15 years** from the Ambassador Hotel to assist in the redevelopment costs of that hotel. All guest taxes collected from the hotel would be distributed to promote tourism within the city

A "Yes" vote would approve Charter Ordinance 216, and the City **will** reallocate 75% of the guest tax collected **for 15 years** from the Ambassador Hotel to assist in the redevelopment costs of that hotel which will assist in the redevelopment of downtown Wichita.

For More Information, please contact the City Attorney' Office at 316.268.4681.