



## **Proposition C - April 4, 2017 Election Frequently Asked Questions**

Crestwood residents are being asked to vote on Proposition C on the April 4, 2017 ballot.

Prop C will provide resources to balance the city budget and thereby limit reductions in city staff and services. This document is intended to answer frequently asked questions about Prop C.

If you have any questions not answered by this document, please send it by e-mail to [info@cityofcrestwood.org](mailto:info@cityofcrestwood.org).

### ***Q: What is Proposition C, and what will it do?***

A: Proposition C is a \$0.45 property tax levy increase, which resulted from public meetings and discussions about the city's financial condition. It was developed and unanimously approved by the Crestwood Board of Aldermen. The revenue generated by Prop C will be used to balance the budget and limit further reductions in staff and service levels. If approved, this would be only the second general purpose property tax increase approved by voters in Crestwood's 70-year history.

Prop C will:

- Retain current number of police officers and firefighters and other city staff
- Maintain current emergency and snow removal response times
- Eliminate deficit spending
- Enhance Crestwood's recognition as a highly desirable city to live

### ***Q: What has Crestwood done to cut costs?***

A: Crestwood has dealt with challenging financial conditions since the early 2000s, with the beginning of the decline of Crestwood mall. Since 2006, city revenues have declined by 21%. In response to this, Crestwood attempted to live within its means.

- In 2003, the city had 122.5 employees. Over the following years, the city would reduce staffing levels by 27% or 33.5 employees. In 2016 Crestwood had a staffing level of 89 employees.

- The city has reduced and/or frozen salaries at times. The average Crestwood employee earns \$500 less in 2016 than they did in 2009.

Despite these measures and many others, the city is still facing a sizable deficit. In 2016, as a last-ditch effort to balance the budget, Crestwood explored contracting out police services to St. Louis County. During public discussions on the topic, it was clear Crestwood residents strongly desired to keep their local police department, and the issue was dropped.

***Q: What will Prop C cost the average resident?***

A: Prop C would cost the owner of a median \$182,000 house approximately \$2.99 a week. That’s about \$12.97 a month. With a \$200,000 house, the cost of Prop C is 47 cents per day, or about \$14.25 a month.

The following chart illustrates the impact Prop C would have on property tax bills:

Home Value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost	Weekly Cost	Daily Cost
\$125,000	\$106.88	\$8.91	\$2.06	\$0.29
\$175,000	\$149.63	\$12.47	\$2.88	\$0.41
\$182,000	\$155.61	\$12.97	\$2.99	\$0.43
\$225,000	\$192.38	\$16.03	\$3.70	\$0.53

***Q: How does Crestwood's property tax rate compare to others in the area?***

A: Crestwood has one of the lowest residential real estate property tax rates in the St. Louis region. Here is a chart of some of the tax rates area residents pay for municipal and fire services:

Manchester	\$1.511	Webster Groves	\$0.759
Ballwin	\$1.013	Sunset Hills	\$0.706
Maplewood	\$0.996	Rock Hill	\$0.661
Shrewsbury	\$0.970	Kirkwood	\$0.60
Clayton	\$0.865	<b>Crestwood</b>	<b>\$0.248</b>

After the 45 cent increase, Crestwood's property tax rate will be \$0.698, which is still one of the lowest in the local area.

***Q: When is the election?***

A: Tuesday, April 4, 2017. As in every election, every vote matters. So it is important you remember to vote on that day, and remind your friends and family to do the same. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline to do so is March 8, 2017.

***Q: Where do I go to vote on April 4?***

A: When you receive your voter registration card in the mail, it will indicate your polling place. You may also follow this link to find your polling place:

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/>

***Q: Who is eligible to vote?***

A: All registered voters living in Crestwood are eligible to vote. Residents may request an absentee ballot by contacting the St. Louis County Board of Elections at 314-6151933 or visit their website for additional information at

<http://www.stlouisco.com/YourGovernment/Elections/AbsenteeVoting>

***Q: What is the ballot language for Prop C?***

A: Proposition C will appear on the ballot in the following form:

**Shall there be a forty-five cent (\$.45) increase in tax levy on one hundred dollars valuation for general municipal purposes including paying the increased costs associated with operating a local police department, operating a local fire department, building and facility maintenance, and other city operational needs in the City of Crestwood?**

***Q: What is a tax levy increase?***

A: A tax levy increase helps fund day-to-day operations of Crestwood's city government. This includes police and fire services, city planning and public works activities, code enforcement and much more. Your local city government helps daily life go smoothly, and is working for the betterment of the community. The levy is the tax rate used to calculate the amount of property tax revenue the city will receive. The rate is used in conjunction with the assessed value of property. For every \$100 dollars of assessed value, the city receives the amount of the levy.

***Q: Why is the city placing Prop C on the ballot?***

A: Crestwood has attempted to live within its means for over 15 years. The city has reduced costs by eliminating employees, reducing services, and putting off major projects. Despite these drastic measures, the city is still facing a significant annual operating deficit. If this trend continues, the city will extinguish its available fund balance by 2020.

***Q: Does this impact the community in any way?***

A: Prop C will position Crestwood to be financially sustainable for the near future, maintaining the high level of service offered to residents. Investing in the community maintains property values by keeping neighborhoods safe and attractive places to live.