In the May 21, 2019 special election, Grants Pass voters will decide whether to implement a $0.03 per gallon motor vehicle fuel tax to replace the City Transportation Utility Fee. The $0.03 per gallon tax is estimated to raise approximately $1.48 million per year. If the measure passes, this would eliminate the Transportation Utility Fee on the City’s monthly utility bills which currently provides annual revenue of approximately $966,444 per year. If the measure fails, the City would continue to assess the utility bill customers a Transportation Utility Fee that supports the maintenance and repair of the City’s street infrastructure and the City would not increase the current level of street repair and maintenance.

- If the measure passes, the tax would be paid by users of the city streets in place of utility users/property owners.

- If the measure passes, the motor vehicle tax would be implemented and the current utility fee, which is $3.68/month for a single-family residential and $12.26 - $1,104.50/month for commercial/industrial would no longer be assessed.

- If the motor vehicle fuel tax is approved by the voters, the Transportation Utility Fee would no longer be assessed, lowering the average single-family house utility bill by $41.43 per year. Note: The Transportation Utility Fee is increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year. The motor vehicle fuel tax is not affected by CPI.

- Based on average consumption of around 91 gallons of gas per month per household, at 20 miles per gallon, a family could drive 21,840 miles per year and their cost, based on $0.03 per gallon would, if passed, be $2.73 per month.

- The City maintains 175 miles of streets and rights of way.

- After a comprehensive study of each street segment of City-maintained roads, it is estimated that over 22% of City streets are rated as "fair", "poor" or worse.

- The City currently budgets $500,000 per year for repair and overlay maintenance. The estimated repair and overlay maintenance costs are $4,400,000 per year.

- Revenue from the motor vehicle fuel tax shall only be used for the activities related to the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, and maintenance, operations and use of city streets.

- Additional questions or comments, please contact City Hall at 541-450-6000 or for questions about the condition of City streets, contact Wade Elliott at welliott@grantspassoregon.gov.

- We all benefit from our transportation system; drivers, bicyclists, transit users, and pedestrians.

- Don’t forget to vote!
 MEET NEW CITY COUNCILOR DWIGHT (DJ) FASZER II

- Your first car: Light blue, two door, 1973 Ford Galaxie 500 with a 351 Windsor engine.
- Most memorable moments: I can't pick just one. Building my home in Grants Pass, graduating from Oregon State University and the birth of my son, Calvin.
- Favorite word(s): Education, Endeavor, Teamwork.
- Life's passion: Forward progress and perseverance, nurturing lifelong friendships and honing empathy.
- Favorite concert: My favorite concert was the most recent I have attended. I had the pleasure of seeing Queens of the Stone Age at the Hult Center in Eugene. They have been a long-time favorite band of mine.
- Background of myself and why I decided to run for City Council: That's a tough one. My family has been present in Grants Pass since 1961, so I was born and raised in the valley. My grandfather was a general residential contractor in Grants Pass and my father and I followed in his footsteps. I guess you could say I have builders blood coursing through my veins. I graduated from Grants Pass High School and then from Oregon State University with a degree in Biology, minor in Chemistry, with a focus on Physics. My goal, at that time, was to pursue a medical degree and practice medicine. I still consider the pursuit of practicing medicine a viable option. I have a son, Calvin, who is now 19 months old and is the greatest source of joy in my life. I have successfully maintained meaningful friendships with two of the first friends I ever met as a young boy growing up in Grants Pass. I love to travel the world and try to schedule traveling adventures as often as possible. The bottom line regarding running for City Council is quite simple: I care for this community. I believe that I possess a skill set that will prove valuable to our local political scene. The pursuit of representing our community by serving on City Council seemed to be the vehicle by which to do just that. It is my hope to properly represent our community, to listen to the community and its needs, and do my very best for our city while I hold my seat on City Council. I am often asked by my family and friends how I like being on City Council. I confidently respond, "I absolutely love it."

Call 811 Before You Dig

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and it's the law).

Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free for homeowners. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

Every digging job requires a call - even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines vary and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call:

- Installing a rural mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting a tree or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck
- Excavating a new garden area

For more information about calling 811, visit myavista.com/811 or call 811.
How to Prepare Your Home For Wildfires
Steps You Can Take That Can Make Your Home Safer During a Wildfire

Vegetation Management

1. Home Ignition Zones
Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the Immediate Zone: 0-to 5-feet around the house; Intermediate Zone: 5-to-30 feet; and the Extended Zone: 30-to-100 feet.

2. Landscape and Maintenance
To reduce ember ignitions fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6-to-10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the Immediate Zone are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel.

Fire Resistive Construction

3. Roofing and Vents
Class A fire-related roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. Decks and Porches
Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. Siding and Windows
Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. Emergency Responder Access
Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Drive-ways should be at least 12-feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15-feet, for emergency vehicle access.

Be Prepared

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it’s unsafe to stay - don’t wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.

Other Considerations

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

For further information, talk to your local Forestry Agency or fire department to learn more about the specific wildfire risk where you live.
What is Backflow Testing and Why do I need it?

When the potential of a cross-connection from a private to public water system exists, the City of Grants Pass requires the installation of a backflow prevention assembly. Examples of these potential cross-connections include anytime that piping from the public water system could be connected to any auxiliary water supply, fire protection system, cooling system, or irrigation system. Dangerous backflow conditions can occur when a cross-connection exists and a reversal in flow direction (or backflow) occurs in the pipe as a result from either backpressure or backsiphonage.

Backflow prevention assemblies prevent backflow from occurring as a result of backpressure or backsiphonage. These assemblies have internal seals, springs and moving parts that can deteriorate over time, therefore, the law requires these assemblies be tested annually by a certified backflow contractor. The City operates a residential backflow testing program for single-family residences and provides a reminder letter with a list of certified testers to commercial and multi-family properties. The City’s backflow contractor tests residential assemblies on the following tentative schedule:

**Northwest:** April, May and June  
**Northeast:** June and July  
**Southeast:** July and August  
**Southwest:** August, September and October

Some common causes of cross-connection hazards:

- Lawn irrigation systems hazards, such as fertilizers, pesticides, or stagnant water from your lawn could be drawn in to your plumbing as a result of backflow through your sprinkler nozzles.
- Hoses left submerged in a pond, swimming pool, laundry basin, or even a bucket of soapy water can cause suction of contaminants.

Mayor Roy Lindsay  541-450-6004  
rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 1

Council President Tyler Flaming  541-450-6000  
tflaming@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Clint Scherf  480-225-4920  
cscherf@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 2

Councilor Valerie Lovelace  541-479-0952  
vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Rick Riker  541-479-7333  
rjriker@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 3

Councilor Dennis Roler  541-479-4272  
droler@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Dwight Faszer, II  541-450-6000  
dfaszer@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 4

Councilor Barry Eames  541-218-1403  
beames@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Joel King  541-761-7538  
jking@grantspassoregon.gov

City Council Meetings

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm  
in the City Council Chambers  
101 NW A Street

City Council Workshops are typically held in the City Council Chambers on Mondays at 11:45 am.

Holidays will alter this schedule.

Any televised meetings are on Charter Cable Channel 183 and stream live on our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Listen live to City Councilors and staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am

Visit our Facebook, and YouTube social media platforms to watch City Manager Aaron Cubic provide a recap of the City Council meetings each Thursday following a Council Meeting.

The City Council hosts sessions of "Coffee Talk"  
BlueStone Bakery  
Friday’s 8 to 9:30 a.m. at 412 NW 6th Street

City of Grants Pass Local Government  
Twitter@CityGrantsPass  
Nextdoor.com - City of Grants Pass

City of Grants Pass  
Instagram@cityofgrantspass  
LinkedIn City of Grants Pass