In March 2019, 70 percent of voters in Des Moines approved a one-cent Local Option Sales & Service Tax to be used for property tax relief, infrastructure upgrades, public safety enhancements and neighborhood improvements.

An estimated 33 percent will be generated by visitors. Each year, the City will publish a Local Option audit report for public review.

Des Moines City Council’s Local Option expenditure policy includes:

- **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**
  By state law, 50 percent of the new sales tax revenue must go toward property tax relief. After receiving approval from voters, Des Moines City Council reduced the City’s property tax levy rate to the lowest it has been in the past seven years.

- **STREET IMPROVEMENTS & FLOOD PREVENTION**
  Visitors and commuters will now help fund necessary improvements to Des Moines’ important infrastructure, including street repavement/replacement and storm sewer upgrades.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS**
  The City is committed to using Local Option revenue to invest in neighborhoods throughout Des Moines, including removal of blighted houses and expanded library hours.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS & EXPENDITURES**
  To better serve our quickly growing city, Local Option revenue will be used to fund public safety enhancements, including continued funding for 13 firefighter positions and mobile mental health crisis services for youth.

DSM.city/localoption