



# THIS IS EL DORADO

## El Dorado sales tax sets new record surpassing \$3 million

The City set a new record in sales tax collections in 2022, receiving a total of \$3,183,395. This is 7 percent higher than the sales tax El Dorado received last year from its one-cent sales tax.

This also is the first time El Dorado has exceeded the \$3 million mark. Previous years have totaled \$2,974,496 in 2021; \$2,683,572 in 2020; \$2,825,900 in 2019; and \$2,974,496 in 2018.

The one-cent sales tax has been approved by voters every five years since 1989. The tax has several purposes, including \$1,650,000 for property tax reduction each year, \$600,000 for street rehabilitation and \$100,000 for economic development. Anything in excess of those amounts is used for capital projects.

“We thank everyone for shopping local,” said City Manager David Dillner.

## What’s Happening in El Dorado

- **March 1** - Chamber Chat
- **March 6 & 20** - City Commission Meetings
- **March 11** - Butler County Bridal Fair
- **March 12** - Kansas Oil Museum Sunday Speaker Series - John Burchill: “People, Places and Politics of 1800’s Kansas”
- **March 21** - Kansas Oil Museum History Happy Hour
- **March 21** - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- **March 21** - Library Book Club
- **March 25** - Kansas Crossroads Marathon and Speakers
- **March 29** - Coutts Caterpillars Preschool Program

*Find more events at [www.eldoks.com](http://www.eldoks.com) and sign up for notifications of upcoming events.*

## Commission, Mayor seats up for election in 2023

There will be two commission seats and the mayor’s seat up for election this year. Of the current commissioners, the following terms expire in December 2023: Mayor Bill Young and Commissioners Gregg Lewis (Seat 2) and Kendra Wilkinson (Seat 4). The commissioners are elected at-large for four-year terms and the mayor for a two-year term.

Here are some things to know if you are thinking about running:

- \* Be prepared to attend four to five meetings each month.
- Candidates can file by a fee of \$20 or get a nomination petition with 50 qualified signatures.
- Elected officials will be sworn in the first meeting in December.

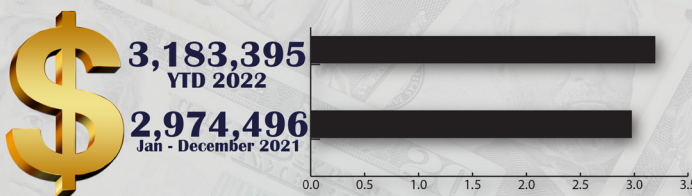
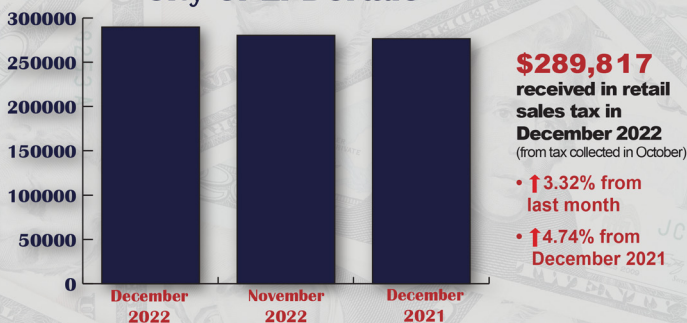
Important dates:

- January 2023 - packets available
- June 1 - filing deadline (by noon)
- August 1 - primary election if more than two file for any seat
- November 7 - general election

Election packets may be picked up from the Butler County Clerk’s Office at the Butler County Courthouse. For more information, visit [www.bucoks.com/181/elections](http://www.bucoks.com/181/elections).

## Sales Tax Revenue

City of El Dorado December 2022



**2022 Projected Sales Tax: \$3 million**

# What your city staff does for you...

## Municipal Airport



There are several divisions within the Public Works Department. One facility that falls under this department is the El Dorado/ Captain Jack Thomas Memorial Airport.

The airport is located about 3 1/2 miles southeast of El Dorado on SE 30th Street. It offers two intersecting runways, a terminal, courtesy car, flight planning station, hangars, fuel and more.

The airport averages about 3,525 flight operations a year and has a \$6,115,400 economic impact, including airport businesses/ tenants, visitor spending and re-spending, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation.

Among the services at the airport are two businesses:

Marsh Flying Service is completing certification for a Part 141 Flight School. It features a more structured curriculum than other types of flight schools. A Part 141 school is eligible for tuition assistance where other schools are not and allows a shorter path to a commercial aviation license.

Peterson Performance Plus is an Internationally known builder of the King Katmai and Kenai series of airplanes. They are modified Cessna 182s that feature a front canard and high performance engine (along with advanced avionics and custom paint and interiors) giving the planes short takeoff and landing capabilities that are favored for back country flying in style.

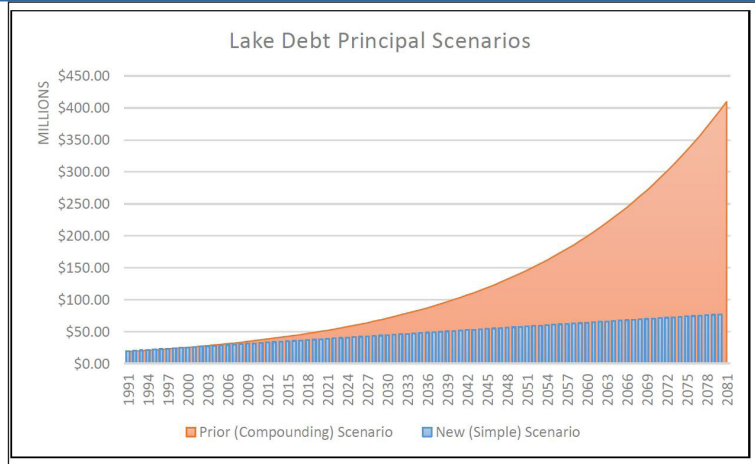
## Police Department News



The El Dorado Police Department is partnering with several local agencies to help provide services to residents and create awareness about the help that is available to those in the community. This month we are spotlighting Pregnancy and Family Resource Center:

The Pregnancy and Family Resource Center offers options, support, and resources while sharing the love and compassion of Christ with those facing pregnancy and parenting choices. They offer free pregnancy tests, iParenting class, as well as information for the guys. They are located at 226 S. Main St.

Learn more about our partnerships at [www.eldoks.com/community-partners-resources](http://www.eldoks.com/community-partners-resources)



## Request to modify water storage contract to save millions

The future lake debt has been a discussion for city staff and the City Commission for many years, specifically the amount owed on the unused storage area. The concern was the total amount of interest due by the time the city activates the remaining storage areas.

The City had been in contact with Senator Roger Marshall's office to see if there was anything that could be done to ease the financial burden the City was facing.

Through the efforts of Senator Marshall's office, the City's request to modify its water storage contract with the Corps of Engineers was included as a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022. This legislation, which President Biden signed on Dec. 27, 2022, contained a provision specific to El Dorado's water storage contract.

The provision changed the methodology used to calculate interest from compound interest to simple interest. The City anticipates this change will reduce the overall obligation from \$53 million to \$39 million. It will also reduce the maximum limit the obligation may increase to from \$410 million in 2081 to \$77 million. The change will be effective when interest started accruing following the initial 10-year interest free period in the agreement. The legislation provides significant relief to El Dorado water customers.

The City must still negotiate a new agreement with the Corps, but it is anticipated that these changes will be made soon.

"It's a big win for us, going from \$400 million down to \$70 million, potentially," said Mayor Bill Young. "It's huge." He offered the City's thanks to Senator Marshall and his staff, saying they really worked hard to help the City achieve this.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can view all of the City's job openings and the descriptions on our website, as well as apply online at: [www.eldoks.com/jobs](http://www.eldoks.com/jobs)