

X-Original-To: tom@rask.com
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 From: Nicholas Azzara <nicholas.azzara@mymanatee.org>
 To: Tom Rask <tom@rask.com>
 CC: Ed Hunzeker <ed.hunzeker@mymanatee.org>
 Subject: RE: One more thing - Questions for article - about signs the county
 is putting up
 Thread-Topic: One more thing - Questions for article - about signs the county
 is putting up
 Thread-Index: AQHSIzvkqmk20SOaGkiqU7RDuB/KtaCjoH2w
 Date: Tue, 11 Oct 2016 19:14:30 +0000
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I must have misspoken. The list of projects will be funded through the proposed tax. Regrets for the confusion.

Nicholas Azzara
 Ext. 3771

From: Tom Rask [mailto:tom@rask.com]
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2016 5:19 PM
To: Nicholas Azzara
Cc: Ed Hunzeker
Subject: One more thing - Questions for article - about signs the county is putting up

Mr. Azzara,

I noticed below you talked about "proposed" projects....but then later you referred to the same as "projects that will be funded".

Which is it: may be funded or will be funded? That was my question #6 below.

At 03:22 PM 10/10/2016, Nicholas Azzara wrote:

Mr. Rask,

Thank you for reaching out and wanting to learn more about the County's informational efforts to inform Manatee voters about the half-cent for infrastructure.

143 signs have been installed along the major roadways, intersections and parks where **projects are proposed** through proceeds from the half-cent for infrastructure. The total cost for the signs is just under \$4,850. A specific breakdown of locations will take more time but I can get you that list this week. The decision to install the signs was made following the County Commission's action in June to place the half-cent on this fall's referendum.

There is no advocacy involved in the educational campaign since nowhere have we asked people to vote for or against the tax; ours is purely an educational campaign to bring voters' attention to the **projects that will be funded** through proceeds from the half-cent.

There are specific allowances for government signs in the public right of way under the County's sign regulations which are spelled out in [Chapter 6 of Manatee's Land Development Code](#). Specifically, sections 603.2 – E., 604 – D and 613.3 create exemptions for government signage without a permit.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Nicholas Azzara
Ext. 3771

From: Tom Rask [<mailto:tom@rask.com>]
Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2016 5:11 PM
To: Nicholas Azzara
Cc: Ed Hunzeker
Subject: Questions for article - about signs the county is putting up

Mr. Azzara (copy Mr. Hunzeker),

If you are not the person within Manatee County government to answers these questions to, please pass them on to the correct person. Some of these questions should be treated as public records request

TampaBayGuardian.Com is working on an article about the "infrastructure sales tax signs" that the county has put. Please have the county's answers, if any, to us by 5 P.M. on Monday October 10th.

TampaBayGuardian.Com's policy is that we reach out to public agency's with questions and requests for comments for publication. If they chose to not respond (even if just to say "we will have no comment"), then we will never contact that public agency again ahead of an article. **Please take note of our policy.**

The questions are:

1/ The county has been putting up 4 ft x 4 ft signs around the county about the proposed 0.5% infrastructure sales tax.

a/ how many signs has the county put up, and in which locations are they? Please provide a location list if you have one.

b/ what is the cost of these signs? Provide provide a breakdown for materials and labor.

c/ please provide the earliest record of a decision to make these signs? We are looking for on what date the idea for these signs arose.

2/ Some of these signs are reportedly in right of ways. Why does the county think it is appropriate to put up these signs in right of ways?

While a Manatee County ordinance *does* [allow "government signs" within right of ways](#), that is presumably for situations that require it. These signs could have been placed outside of right-of-ways. So why did the county set aside any safety concerns and other considerations and place these signs in right of ways?

3/ [Section 609](#) of Manatee county ordinances does not define "political signs". [Some people have argued](#) that the county is engaging in advocacy because it provided just one side of the policy argument.

a/ does the county consider its signs to be advocacy?

b/ does the county consider its signs to be political?

b/ does the county consider its signs to be political advertisements?

4/ [FS 106.113](#) requires that the electioneering communications by your agency be limited to "factual information". Therefore, should voters assume that the [list of projects](#) that the county has published *will* be completed if the tax passes? As opposed to "may" be completed.

Thanks in advance.

Regards,

Tom Rask

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Tom Rask