



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020

School projects to be funded through proposed 1/4¢ sales tax announced

Goldsboro, N.C. – This afternoon in a joint meeting, the Wayne County Board of Education and Wayne County Board of Commissioners approved 40 school projects that will be completed over the next five years if the 1/4¢ sales and use tax is approved by voters during the March 3 primary election.

“Today’s historical announcement will assure citizens of Wayne County that all funds generated by the proposed 1/4¢ sales tax increase will be used solely to address the school district’s needs for new school construction, classroom additions, renovations or campus updates, and safety and security upgrades,” states Don Christopher West, Wayne County Board of Education Chair. “This referendum has bi-partisan support and has been designed in such a way that Wayne County citizens can see exactly how monies from this small sales tax increase will be spent and what a tremendous impact it will have on our schools and communities moving forward.”

The Wayne County Finance Department estimates, based on current sales tax figures, that the one fourth of a penny sales and use tax would generate approximately \$2.6 million annually. The funds will position Wayne County to borrow approximately \$32 million needed to be completed the 40 approved school projects.

Wayne County Board of Commissioner Chairman, E. Ray Mayo, states this funding stream will be invaluable in helping to immediately begin addressing some of the school district’s more critical facility needs.

“It is a positive day in Wayne County when these two boards can come together for the future of our children. Though the need is great, and this is only the beginning, we are proud to begin the necessary steps towards construction, improvements, and most importantly safety for our public schools,” adds Mayo.

To help citizens become more informed, the school district has launched an [Informational Website](http://www.waynecountyschools.org/salestax.aspx) (www.waynecountyschools.org/salestax.aspx) which includes an [Interactive Map of School Projects](#), a [Breakdown of School Projects & Estimated Costs](#), and a [FAQ](#) about the proposed 1/4¢ sales tax. In the coming weeks, artistic renderings of school projects and other resources will be added to the site.

As part of the district’s awareness campaign, dates will soon be announced about a series of community meetings to be held in each school feeder pattern. The meetings, which will provide information about the school projects and the proposed 1/4¢ sales tax, will be open to the public. Additionally, district and county leaders will continue meeting with Boards of local municipalities. At this time, the Town of Fremont and Town of Mount Olive have passed resolutions in support of the 1/4¢ sales tax.

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Projects to be Completed Using Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Revenue (Pending Voter Approval)

Project Area	School/Project	Estimate
New School Construction	Fremont Elementary	\$ 18,000,000.00
Classroom Additions	Northwest Elementary - 8 Classrooms	\$ 2,400,000.00
	Rosewood Elementary - 8 Classrooms	\$ 2,400,000.00
Renovations or Campus Updates	Carver Heights Elementary Roof	\$ 1,100,000.00
	Charles B. Aycock High Portable Restroom Replacement	\$ 250,000.00
	Dillard Middle Roof and Windows	\$ 400,000.00
	Eastern Wayne High School Windows	\$ 500,000.00
	Eastern Wayne High Portable Restroom Replacement	\$ 250,000.00
	Goldsboro High School Windows and HVAC	\$ 2,000,000.00
	Greenwood Middle Boiler Replacement	\$ 275,000.00
	Rosewood High School Roof	\$ 1,300,000.00
	Southern Wayne High Portable Restroom Replacement	\$ 250,000.00
	Spring Creek High Field House and Gym Renovation	\$ 1,500,000.00
Safety and Security Upgrades*	Brogden Middle Brogden Primary School Carver Elementary School Carver Heights Elementary School Charles B. Aycock High School Dillard Middle School Eastern Wayne Elementary School Eastern Wayne High Eastern Wayne Middle Edgewood Goldsboro High School Grantham Elementary School Greenwood Middle Mount Olive Middle School North Drive Elementary School Northwest Elementary School Northeast Elementary School Norwayne Middle School Rosewood Elementary School Rosewood High School Rosewood Middle School Southern Wayne High School Spring Creek Elementary School Spring Creek High School Tommy's Road Elementary School Wayne Academy Wayne School of Engineering	\$ 1,418,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost:	\$ 32,043,000.00

* Included as part of \$1,418,000.00 in district-wide safety & security upgrades, these projects are intended to provide improvements at 27 schools for access control (e.g: safety vestibules & keycard building access), surveillance, playground fencing, and other aspects of school safety.

FAQ: 1/4 Cent Sales & Use Tax

Is a sales tax different from property tax?

Property taxes are assessed based on the value of property you own, while sales taxes are generated from monetary transactions. By design, the added one-quarter of one-cent sales and use tax will allow non-property owners, as well as those traveling to Wayne County to shop or make purchases, to help share the burden of funding local school projects and construction costs.

If approved by voters, what would the effect be on the taxpayer?

The current combined state and local sales tax rate for Wayne County is 6.75% or six and three-quarters of a cent for a \$1.00 purchase. If approved by voters, the rate would change to 7%. The effect of the additional one-quarter (1/4¢) sales and use tax is 25 cents on a \$100 purchase.

What about the North Carolina Education Lottery? Doesn't the state provide lottery dollars for school construction?

While the North Carolina Lottery reported \$2.8 billion in gross ticket sales this past fiscal year, the Wayne County Board of Education received \$1.3 million from lottery revenues during this same time. It is especially important to note that all Wayne County Public Schools lottery dollars are encumbered and are currently being used to help pay off the \$46.8 million new school construction projects at Grantham Middle and Spring Creek Middle which opened in August of 2015.

How does the addition of a 1/4¢ sales tax compare to the sales tax in neighboring counties?

Wayne County citizens are currently paying the additional one quarter cent sales tax when shopping in the nearby counties of Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Harnett, New Hanover, Onslow, Pitt, and Sampson, which all have a 7% sales tax rate. Shopping in the triangle is even higher, with the following sales tax rates being reported: Durham County (7.5%), Wake County (7.25%), and Orange County (7.5%)

How much money will be raised through this tax?

The Wayne County Finance Department estimates, based on current sales tax figures, that the one fourth of a penny sales and use tax would generate approximately \$2.6 million annually. Having this funding stream will position the Wayne County Board of Commissioners to borrow approximately \$32 million to complete 40 approved school projects over the next 5 years.

How will this money be used?

The one fourth of a penny sales and use tax will be used solely to address the school district's needs for new school construction, classroom additions, renovations or campus updates, and safety & security upgrades. Click on the following link to see a [Full Breakdown of School Projects](#).

Are there items exempt from the sales tax?

The sales and use tax referendum excludes gas, prescription medication, and non-prepared foods or groceries.

Who put this referendum on the Primary Election ballot?

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners, at the request of the Wayne County Board of Education, added the proposed one-quarter of one-cent sales and use tax to the March 3, 2020 Primary Election ballot. Since it was added in December 2019, both the Town of Fremont and Town of Mount Olive have passed resolutions in support.

Why put this referendum on the ballot?

Wayne County Public Schools has needs of well over \$100 million in building replacements, classroom additions, renovations or campus updates, and safety & security upgrades that have to be addressed in the coming years. In the absence of other available funding streams to complete these projects, the Wayne County Board of Commissioners have committed to using the proposed one-quarter of one-cent sales and use tax to immediately begin helping the Board of Education address some of its more critical school facility needs.