

**HOW WILL IMPROVING SCHOOL FACILITIES IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN OUR COUNTY'S SCHOOLS?**

The revenue provided by the sales tax will contribute to an improved learning environment for students across the county. Buildings will be kept maintained and up-to-date. Heating and cooling systems will be modernized. This revenue will also allow Hamilton County Unit 10 School District to provide the facilities necessary to support a 21st century education, which is critical to ensuring that our students have the tools they need to compete in a changing economy.

**HOW WILL THE COUNTY SALES TAX FOR SCHOOLS APPEAR ON THE MARCH 18 BALLOT?**

The proposal will appear as follows:

Proposition for a 1% Sales Tax for School Facility Purposes

"Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "Sales Tax") be imposed in The County of Hamilton, Illinois at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for maintaining, renovating, and/or upgrading existing school facilities?"

**HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY SALES TAX FOR SCHOOLS REFERENDUM?**

For more information about the referendum and the county sales tax for schools, please contact your local school administrative office or the Unit Office 643-2328. We urge you to learn all about this important issue and to VOTE on March 18, 2014.

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**Hamilton County  
Sales Tax Referendum  
Information**



1% Sales Tax  
for  
Hamilton County Schools

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March 18, 2014

# Hamilton County 1% Sales Tax For School Facilities

## WHAT IS THE COUNTY SALES TAX FOR SCHOOLS?

The county sales tax for schools is a new way to provide better schools, more jobs and provide lower property taxes across Hamilton County. The March referendum asks voters to approve a countywide, 1% sales tax increase. This represents 1 penny for each dollar spent on taxable goods. The revenue from this sales tax will fund school improvements across the county and allow the school district to reduce property taxes.

## HOW WILL FUNDS FROM THE SALES TAX BE USED?

Funds from this sales tax can **ONLY** be used for:

- Maintaining
- Renovating
- Upgrading existing school facilities
- New construction
- Reducing property taxes

## CAN REVENUE FROM THE SALES TAX BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE?

**No.** Funds from the sales tax **may not** be used for:

- Salaries
- Overhead
- Buses
- Operating expenses



## HOW WILL THE SALES TAX LEAD TO REDUCED PROPERTY TAXES?

The resources provided by the county sales tax for schools will pay for school facility maintenance and improvements that would otherwise be funded by property taxes. Hamilton County school district plan to use revenue from the sales tax to reduce property taxes.

**As an example: If property taxes were reduced \$100 you would have to spend over \$10,000 on taxable goods to not benefit.**

## HOW MUCH REVENUE WILL THE SALES TAX GENERATE FOR SCHOOLS?

Approximately **\$300,000** a year for Hamilton County Schools

## HOW MUCH OF THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THE SALES TAX WILL COME FROM PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF HAMILTON COUNTY?

It is projected that up to 20% of the total annual revenue – will come from people who live outside Hamilton County and are tourists or traveling through the area.

## WHY IS THIS REFERENDUM NEEDED NOW?

Hamilton County schools are facing serious facility needs. Given the state of the economy -- residents across the county are in need of property tax relief; Illinois has drastically reduced funding for schools. The county sales tax for schools will address both of these needs and help to boost our economy.

## HOW WILL COUNTY RESIDENTS ON A FIXED INCOME AND BUSINESSES BE PROTECTED UNDER THIS PLAN?

The countywide sales tax for schools will **NOT** apply to the following purchases:

- Groceries
- Medication (over the counter and prescription)
- Cars, trucks and ATVs
- Boats and RVs
- Mobile homes
- Farm equipment and parts
- Farm inputs

If an item is not currently subject to a sales tax, it will **NOT** be subject to the countywide sales tax for schools.



## HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM BENEFIT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY?

Investing in school improvements and construction in Hamilton County will mean a real boost to our local economy. The projects funded by this sales tax will put people to work across Hamilton County. Job creation means economic growth for our community and a better quality of life for everyone in our county. Better schools and lower property taxes will encourage more families to live in our county.