

# One-Cent Sales Tax

## For St. Clair County School Facilities

On April 4, a one-cent sales tax proposal is on the ballot in St. Clair County. The revenue from this sales tax, if passed, can only be used to improve school facilities or retire new or existing building bonds. Our Board of Education voted to place this proposal on the ballot because it will provide a reliable source of revenue to keep our schools up-to-date and, at the same time, provide property tax relief to our residents.

### Revenue Can Only Be Used to Retire New or Current Building Bonds and/or Support Facility Improvements

Revenue from this one-cent sales tax can only be used for retiring new or current building bonds or improving school facilities. It cannot be used for salaries, instructional materials, or other operating costs. Specifically, it can be used for:

- New school facilities
- Additions and renovations
- Land acquisition
- Safety and Security Improvements
- Energy Efficiency
- Paying Off Building Bonds
- Architectural Planning and Engineering
- Durable Equipment

### Property Tax Relief

All across Illinois there has been a call for property tax relief. This proposal, in part, is an answer to that call. Traditionally, all school building improvements have been funded through property taxes. By passing this proposal, much of the burden for funding public education facility improvements will be shifted to a sales tax – and a sales tax that is very equitable and fair in its design (see back page).

If this proposal passes, our District will have the ability to keep our facilities up-to-date and in good working order without a total reliance on property taxes.

### It is Important to Know What is NOT Subject to this Tax

- Unprepared Food (groceries)
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
- Cars, Trucks, ATVs, Boats, RVs and Mobile Homes
- Farm Equipment, Parts, and Farm Inputs
- Services

If it is not currently taxed, it will not be taxed

### How much more would I actually be paying if this passed?



\$100.00 of grocery food = **no increase**

\$25,000 car/truck = **no increase**

\$7.00 of fast food = 7 cents

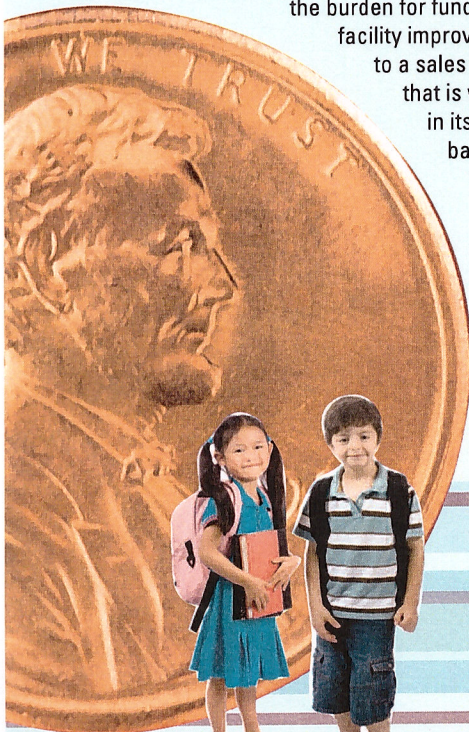
\$450.00 TV = \$4.50

\$40.00 of medicine = **no increase**

\$70.00 pair of shoes = 70 cents

### Be Informed and Remember to Vote

This proposal is important to the future of our District. Please be fully informed on this issue and remember to vote. There is more information about this proposal on the back of this flyer.



**Election: April 4, 2017**

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The County School Facility Sales Tax represents the first shift away from relying on property taxes for local school district funding in Illinois. The law, similar to one in Iowa, went into effect in 2007 allowing voters to approve a sales tax to fund school facility needs. The sales tax is for one cent on every dollar spent on qualifying retail purchases. School Boards representing 100% of the resident student enrollment in St. Clair County have passed resolutions approving the sales tax proposal, and the question will be placed on the April 4 election ballot.

### A More Equitable Sales Tax

The design of this sales tax is more equitable to those living on fixed incomes or in professions that could be severely impacted by a new sales tax.

### How Much Money Will Each District Receive and How Will it be Distributed?

The money generated in St. Clair County would be divided between the school districts based on each district's percentage of the overall student population. Anyone who shops in St. Clair County, including those who do not live there, would contribute toward keeping our schools up to date. Revenues do NOT flow through the Illinois General Assembly budget process and are not subject to cuts similar to what districts currently experience relating to State Aid.

### Approximate annual sales tax revenue and usage:

**Freeburg #77 – \$338,156**  
 Bond & Interest Tax Abatement – \_\_\_% (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ savings per \$100,000 assessed valuation  
 Facility Improvement – \_\_\_% (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \$100,000 assessed valuation

**Smithton #130 – \$276,411**  
 Bond & Interest Tax Abatement – 59% (\$163,961)  
 \$56.40 savings per \$100,000 assessed valuation  
 Facility Improvement – 41% (\$112,450)  
 \$38.67 per \$100,000 assessed valuation

### Shared Tax

Visitors living outside of St. Clair County frequent our shops, restaurants, and gas stations and will be supporting our schools through their spending. One cent per dollar spent will go toward school facilities. Spectators at events, commuters heading to St. Louis, and people that love St. Clair County's stores and restaurants will be joining the property tax payer toward paying for schools. The sales tax ultimately relieves property owners of paying for 100% of school facilities.

### Specific Improvements for Our Districts

Following are the specific plans for our Districts should this proposal pass.

#### Freeburg CHSD #77

- **Current Tax Relief** Pay off existing bond debt issues for capital improvements in 2007 & 2011
- **Future Tax Relief** Reduce or eliminate the need for bonds for:
  - Roof replacement on Central and South wings of building
  - Replacement of aged boiler heating system
  - Flooring replacement in South wing of building
  - Replacing FCHS' 60+ year old main gymnasium
  - Maintain and expand interior video surveillance and replace building's aging exterior doors.
  - Installation of LED lighting throughout the building.
  - Resurface existing parking lots with asphalt or concrete
  - Explore the expansion of current parking lots. Provide improvements and maintenance to outdoor athletic facilities.

#### Smithton CCSD #130

- **Current Tax Relief** Pay off existing bond debt issued for capital improvement in 2009
- **Future Tax Relief** Reduce or eliminate the need for bonds for:
  - Eliminate modular building;
  - Upgrade electrical capacity;
  - Construct, renovate and expand classroom space, cafeteria, kitchen, and auxiliary service areas;
  - Perform general maintenance (improve, add and maintain parking lots; paint; flooring; and playgrounds);
  - Provide ADA compliance throughout building.

## Questions or More Information

To learn more about what the county school facility sales tax means to you, contact the following individuals:

### Freeburg #77

Superintendent Mr. Greg Frerking  
 618.539.5533  
 frerkiga@fchs77.org  
 www.fchs77.org

### Smithton #130

Superintendent Dr. Susan Homes  
 618.233.6863  
 shomes@scscsd130.com  
 www.smithton.stclair.k12.il.us

Please take the time to learn about this important issue.

