



Our Schools Our Future

County School Facility Sales Tax

On November 6, a one-cent sales tax proposal is on the ballot in Sangamon 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 for the District's Facilities Master Plan and to keep our schools up-to-date. It is the only means to build new, larger and more functional facilities.

This one-cent sales tax can be used to provide:

- 21st century learning spaces
- Equitable facilities
- Safety and security upgrades
- Student-centered facilities
- Up-to-date infrastructure
- Welcoming environments

Ballot Language

Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "Sales Tax") be imposed in Sangamon County at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes?

Why Is This Important?

- 81% of District 186 schools are at least 50 years old
- There are 28 temporary classrooms (mobiles) in use across the District
- Continuing to maintain buildings at the status quo is not cost effective
- \$98 million in short-term maintenance needs does not move us toward a preferred future

Facilities Master Plan Proposed Phase 1 Improvements:

- Security upgrades at every school, including new safe and secure entrances
- Critical health life safety and infrastructure upgrades at most buildings as needed
- Elimination of all temporary classrooms (mobiles)
- Expansion of middle school cafeterias and classroom space
- Newly constructed Owen Marsh Elementary on current site
- Consolidation of Hazel Dell and Laketown to a newly constructed elementary school in that region
- Comprehensive reconstruction of historic portion of Springfield High for larger modern classroom space, addition of fieldhouse with air conditioning
- Comprehensive reconstruction of historic portion of Lanphier High for modern classroom space, addition of auditorium and fieldhouse, demolition of Edison wing, air conditioning in all parts of the facility
- Renovation of auditorium and restrooms at Southeast High, addition of locker rooms and fieldhouse with air conditioning

Funding for entire plan will be a combination of health life safety bonds and a voter-approved sales tax increase.

Please visit www.sps186.org to review the complete Facilities Master Plan and Phase 1 Improvements.

County School Facility Sales Tax

The County School Facility Sales Tax, which became a funding option in Illinois in 2007, represents the first shift away from relying on property taxes for local school districts. If this proposal passes, we can make the improvements included in the District's Facilities Master Plan. The sales tax is one cent on every dollar spent on qualifying retail purchases. Revenue from this county-wide tax is distributed proportionately to all school districts in Sangamon County.

District 186 will receive an estimated \$10,025,000 per year in revenue.

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 are also not taxed

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

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

\$100 of grocery food = **no increase**

\$50 of gas = 50 cents

\$15,000 car/truck = **no increase**

\$7 of fast food = 7 cents

\$450 TV = \$4.50

\$40 of medicine = **no increase**

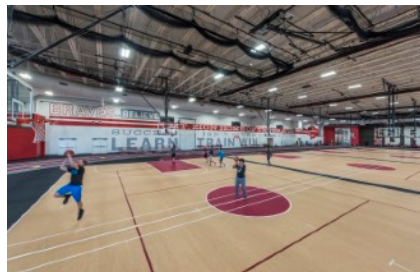
\$70 pair of shoes = 70 cents

Revenue Can Only Be Used to Support Facility Improvements

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

Specifically, it can be used for:

- New Facilities
- Additions & Renovations
- Land Acquisition
- Security and Safety Improvements
- Technology Infrastructure
- Energy Efficiency
- Paying Off Building Bonds
- Architectural Planning/Engineering
- Durable Equipment



Questions or More Information

To learn more about what the county school facility sales tax means to you call Springfield Public School District 186 at (217) 525-3002 or visit our website at www.sps186.org.

Please take the time to learn about this important issue.