

1/4 CENT SALES TAX INCREASE



On Nov. 4, Guilford County voters will be asked to consider a 1/4-cent increase in the county sales tax. **The increase – just one penny when you spend \$4 – would generate up to \$14 million annually for Guilford County Schools.**

The 1/4 cent sales tax will provide funding that will impact more than 72,300 students in 127 schools – from High Point to Gibsonville, Greensboro to Jamestown, and all the areas in between.

Where the money would go

If approved, revenue generated by the 1/4 cent sales tax increase would be used to:

- Keep more teachers and teacher assistants in our classrooms
- Purchase classroom supplies like paper, markers, crayons, paint, beakers, digital tools, books and instructional technology
- Repair and maintain aging buildings and facilities

Why more money is needed

Our schools need money because education funding has been cut by more than \$500 million statewide since 2008, even after adjusting for inflation. State cuts to GCS exceed \$46.6 million.



409
positions

\$46.6
million



186
classroom
teachers



83
assistants,
facilitators

State cuts have caused damage

- Since 2008, GCS has had to cut 409 fulltime positions, including 269 classroom and school-based positions.
- Fewer teachers = more overcrowded classes and fewer course offerings.
- Teachers are leaving for better-paying jobs in other states.
- Textbook funding has dropped from about \$67 per child in 2008 to \$14 per child in 2014. New textbooks cost an average of \$65 each.
- State funding for teacher training has dropped from about \$85 per teacher in 2008 to \$0 in 2014.

Maintenance needs piling up

- GCS currently has only 16 cents per-square-foot for maintenance and routine repairs.
- 50 percent of GCS buildings are 50 years old or more. Roofs, boilers, paving, flooring, and safety systems all need upgrading or repairs.
- At least 60 percent of our schools were built before 1969 - 45 years ago - when U.S. astronauts landed on the moon.
- Lottery proceeds go to State and County governments, not GCS. Guilford County receives \$4.8 million annually and uses it for debt service on the 2008 school bonds.

**“For the first time
in my career of more
than 30 years in public
education, I am truly worried
about students in our care.”**

Dr. June Atkinson,
North Carolina Superintendent
of Public Instruction, 2013

Make your voice heard and vote on November 4, 2014.

Important Dates: NC General Election

Absentee Voting by Mail Begins:
September 5, 2014

Voter Registration Deadline
for Nov. 4 Election:
October 10, 2014

Early Voting:
October 23 – November 1, 2014

Last Day to Request Absentee Ballot:
October 28, 2014

Want to register to vote?

Get forms at any GCS school or office,
or contact the Guilford County Board
of Elections. You may also download
a form online: http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/elections_cms/

GUILFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Office Hours: M-F (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
301 W. MARKET ST, ROOM 115
GREENSBORO, NC 27401
336-641-3836; 336-641-7676 (fax)
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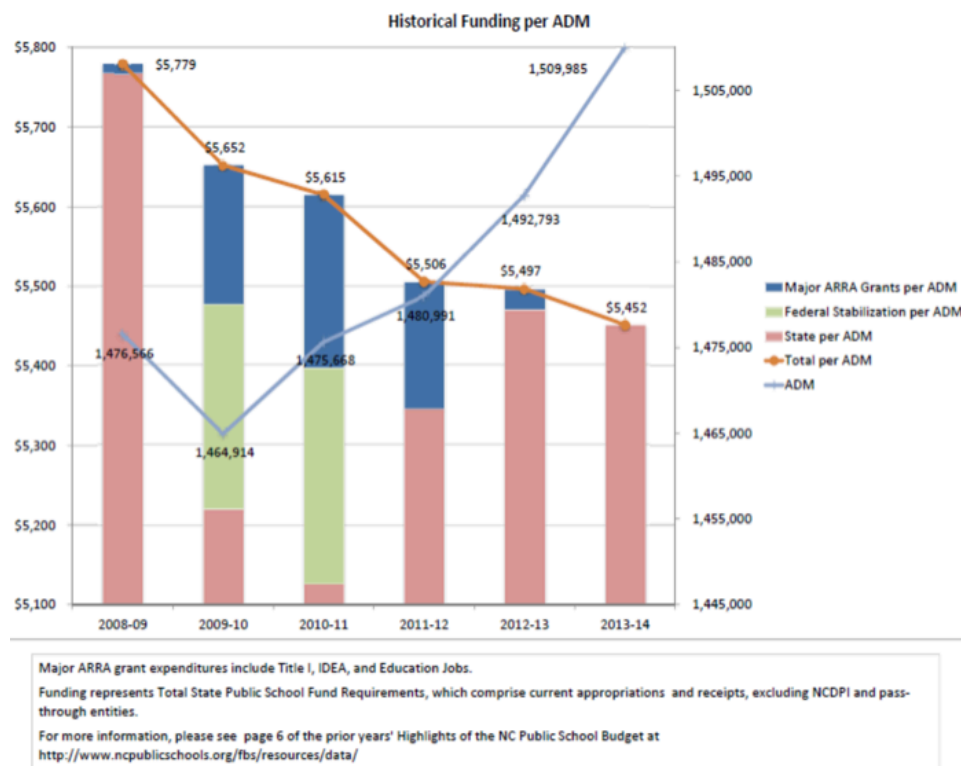


Sales tax makes sense

- Up to 40 percent of the revenue raised from the sales tax – \$4.8 million annually – will be paid by visitors who do not live in Guilford County.
- The sales tax won't be charged on basic necessities such as unprepared food, prescription medicine or gasoline.
- The cost to the consumer is minimal – about 1 penny on a fast-food hamburger purchase.
- If approved, the Guilford County sales tax would increase from 6.75 cents-per-dollar to 7 cents-per-dollar, still below the previous rate of 7.75 cents-per-dollar.

More Students, Fewer Resources

North Carolina Funding Trends Per Student*



*Allotted Average Daily Membership (ADM)

Annual GCS Capital Outlay Budget

Fiscal Years 2004-05 through 2013-14

(2011-12 = \$450,330 in general fund dollars + \$3,549,670 from the Eastern Guilford HS Replacement project; 2013-14 = \$1,000,000 in general fund dollars + \$1,000,000 in bond premium dollars)

