

Vote for the 1/4-cent sales tax and help kids

People! It's only a quarter of one penny! That's all - it will add one dollar to \$400 of purchased items! ("But I'm struggling already and I can hardly pay for my groceries and medicine I need each month!", you say.) Ah, oh hungry and infirmed one - unprepared food (grocery store foods) and prescription meds are exempt from the tax. ("But my truck is a gas guzzler and I pay a fortune in fuel each week to get to Asheville for work!", you say.) Ah, one who buys a gas-guzzler of a truck - gasoline will not cost you any more since gasoline is also exempt from the tax!

Seriously, Madison County voters, are you interested in your kid's education? If the answer is no, then you'll vote against the referendum. Shame on you for, 1) having kids, and 2) not caring about kids. This tax is exempt from going directly to the county coffers. It will be earmarked for the Madison County School Board to be used at their discretion.

Right now, just look at the high school stadium. It is nearly a third condemned due to age and poor design and every time I go see an event those steps make me nervous going down them. A new stadium is estimated to be around \$4 million. Also needed, at just the high school, is a new roof. Built in the early 70's, Madison High School looks absolutely great. The portico, built by the construction classes makes that building look classy and just finishes it off. However, the roof over the rest of the building is old and needs hundreds of thousands to redo.

This tax is so low that estimates put the amount of a year's worth of this tax at, or near, \$271,000 with the tourists paying over \$100,000 of that by renting B & B's, rafting, eating, and hiking/biking in our beautiful county.

Dr. Will Hoffman, superintendent, has been really pushing this tax, not only for the building needs but for teachers, as well. It is apparent that many teachers leave the county for a much larger paycheck. With this added money, a larger supplement may be available for those that teach kids. Not much more, but some.

Please readers, vote for the quarter-penny sales tax this coming March 3, 2020, and encourage others to do the same. Ultimately, it is for the kids!

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