

TWO Votes, ONE Decision

FAQs Half-Cent Surtax

1.) How many counties in Florida have the half-cent surtax?

25 Counties – Alachua*, Bay, Brevard*, Calhoun, **Clay***, **Duval***, Escambia, **Flagler**, Hernando*, Hillsborough, Jackson, Lee, Leon, Manatee*, Martin*, Monroe*, Okaloosa, Orange*, Osceola, Polk, St. Johns, St. Lucie*, Santa Rosa, Volusia, Washington.

➤ 52% of all public-school students in Florida

**10 Counties have half-cent surtax and additional voted millage*

Northeast Florida County

2.) How much money will the half-cent generate?

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the half-cent surtax generated \$37 million.

3.) What are the sales tax rates for counties in Northeast Florida

Nassau – 7%

Duval – 7.5% (with half-cent surtax)

Clay – 7.5% (with half-cent surtax)

St. Johns - 6.5% (with half-cent surtax)

Putnam County – 7%

Flagler – 7% (with half-cent surtax)

4.) How much does this cost the average household in St. Johns County per year?

The half-cent is a renewal of an existing surtax. It will not cost residents any additional money.

5.) Is the half-cent assessed on the total value of large purchases?

No, it is assessed on the first \$5,000 of a large purchase and is capped at \$25.

6.) Can you levy a one-cent sales tax and use half for capital and half for operational purposes?

No, Florida Statute 212.055(6) limits school districts to a half-cent levy and specifies the use for capital purposes only.

7.) Why now?

The voters passed the half-cent in 2015 for a period of 10 years. The measure sunsets on December 31st, 2025. State statute now requires that the referendum take place during a general election. If the district waited until the next general election in 2026, there would be a gap.

8.) What is the plan if the half-cent does not pass in November?

We cannot afford for the half-cent not to pass in November, but if it didn't, the district would fall further behind on construction of new schools, be forced to defer some major maintenance projects on existing facilities and fail to keep pace with technology innovations to serve our students. No matter what we cannot ever compromise on school safety.

TWO Votes, ONE Decision

FAQs Additional Operating Millage

1.) How many School Districts in Florida have a voted additional operating millage?

25 Counties – Alachua*, Brevard*, Broward, Charlotte, **Clay***, Collier, Dade, **Duval***, Franklin, Hernando*, Indian River, Lake, Manatee*, Marion, Martin*, Monroe*, **Nassau**, Orange*, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Lucie*, Sarasota, Taylor, Walton

➤ 63% of all public-school students in Florida

**10 Counties also have half-cent and additional millage*

Northeast Florida County

2.) What is the current starting teacher salary in St. Johns County? How does it compare to other Counties in Northeast Florida

Duval County – \$48,700 Base Salary + \$5,400 Millage Supplement = \$54,100

Nassau County - \$50,000 + \$2,000 Millage Supplement = \$52,000

Flagler County - \$49,451

St. Johns County - \$48,642

Clay County - \$48,250

Putnam County - \$47,500

3.) In the counties that have passed the millage, how much are teachers receiving as a supplement?

Duval County – \$5,401 - \$7,041 depending on experience.

Nassau County - \$2,000 – \$10,000 depending on experience

4.) How will the money be distributed?

85% of the money will be used for salary improvements to retain and recruit the best staff to serve students. The remaining 15% will support school safety, student welfare, and program enhancements.

5.) Why would teachers and staff receive a supplement instead of a salary adjustment?

If in the future the millage was not renewed, the current school funding formula would not be able to sustain a permanent salary adjustment.

6.) Will you use the same Citizens Advisory Committee as you do for the Half-Cent surtax?

The committee will be similar in structure but will operate independently of the Half-Cent Sales Tax Citizen Advisory Committee and will be made up of different members.

7.) Why now?

State Statute 1011.73 requires school district millage elections to be held in a general election. Multiple counties in Northeast Florida passed additional millages in 2022. Current funding methods do not allow us to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain the best staff to support our students.

8.) What is the plan if the millage does not pass during the November election?

Current funding will not sustain the level of services that the district provides. Reprioritization of resources will certainly result in reductions in some areas.

9.) If approved by the voters, when will collections begin?

Collections will begin in July 2025 and continue through June 2029.