



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITIONAL OPERATING MILLAGE “TWO Votes, ONE Decision”



## ONE MILL OPERATING MILLAGE TO INCREASE TEACHER PAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County levy additional operating millage of one mill annually for four years beginning July 1, 2025, to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics?

- YES
- NO

In the general election on November 5, 2024, your ballot will contain a School District referendum for additional operational funding to support St. Johns County’s nearly 52,000 students and 6,500 employees. This funding is critically needed to retain and recruit the best staff for the children of St. Johns. The funding also supports school safety initiatives, student welfare, and educational program enhancements. The cost to the average household in St. Johns County would be approximately \$360 per year, less than a dollar a day.

### A YES WILL:



**Fund school safety initiatives, continuing to keep our children safe in school.**

**Allow for salary improvements for teachers and educational support staff. 85% of the money will be used to retain and recruit the best staff to serve our students.**

**Provide a much-needed increase in operational funding. 100% of the money collected will stay in St. Johns County supporting our students.**

**Increase student welfare resources, including mental health support and nurses in all schools.**

**Expand opportunities for students by investing in enhanced educational programs, including science, technology, art, music, and athletics.**

### A NO WILL:



**Limit funding for school safety initiatives and resources to support student welfare.**

**Oppose competitive compensation to teachers and educational support staff, including bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and food service workers.**

**Limit St. Johns County School’s operational funding, keeping us behind 25 Florida counties who have passed additional operating millages, including Duval, Clay, and Nassau.**

**Create staffing shortages by hindering retention and recruiting efforts.**

**Restrict unique education opportunities for students in science, technology, engineering, art, music, and career academies.**

Retain and Recruit the best to serve students



Continue to prioritize School Safety



Provide additional resources for Student Welfare



Invest in Enhanced Educational Programs



For more information go to: [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/vote](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/vote)



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HALF-CENT SURTAX CONTINUATION “TWO Votes, ONE Decision”



### ONE-HALF CENT SALES SURTAX FOR CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida continue the one-half cent sales surtax to fund the construction, reconstruction and improvement of school facilities, including safety and security improvements and technology upgrades, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2035, with revenue shared with charter schools based on their proportionate share of total enrollment, and continued monitoring by a citizen advisory committee?

- FOR THE HALF-CENT TAX
- AGAINST THE HALF-CENT TAX

A referendum will be on your ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024, for the continuation of the half-cent sales surtax to support School District capital outlay funding. Initially approved by the voters in 2015, this continuation will provide nearly \$37 million per year for new construction, school safety improvements, maintenance of existing facilities, and classroom technology. In 2015, the School District promised to use this money to improve the learning environment for all students. Although there is still more work to do, we are happy to say, “Promises Made, Promises Kept”, as monitored by the Citizens Advisory Committee.

## FOR THE HALF-CENT WILL:

**Fund essential school safety equipment and infrastructure such as wearable mobile panic alarms for staff, digital radios for schools and buses, and secure points of entry.**

**Maintain St. Johns County’s sales tax rate at 6.5%, the lowest in northeast Florida.**

**Generate funding for critically needed capital projects such as new schools, improvements to existing facilities, and maintenance programs.**

**Build permanent classroom space through new construction and school expansion, reducing the need for portable classrooms.**

**Outfit classrooms with up-to-date technology, preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.**

## AGAINST THE HALF-CENT WILL:

**Eliminate an essential source of funding dedicated for school safety equipment and infrastructure.**

**Reduce School District capital outlay funding to below the state average per student.**

**Delay critically needed construction projects, keeping over 13,000 students in approximately 600 portable classrooms.**

**Force deferral of major maintenance projects, degrading the functionality and appearance of our schools**

**Impede new classroom technology implementation, delaying student access to the latest tools for learning.**

Continue to keep our students **Safe**



Meet the needs of our **Growing** community



**Maintain** the best learning environment for students



Put the best **Technology** into our classrooms



For more information go to: [www.halfcentsuccess.com](http://www.halfcentsuccess.com)

A special thanks goes to **Konica Minolta** for sponsoring this document. No School District funds or tax dollars were used in its printing.