

## What will I see on the ballot?

The ballot will look essentially like this:

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

FOR       AGAINST

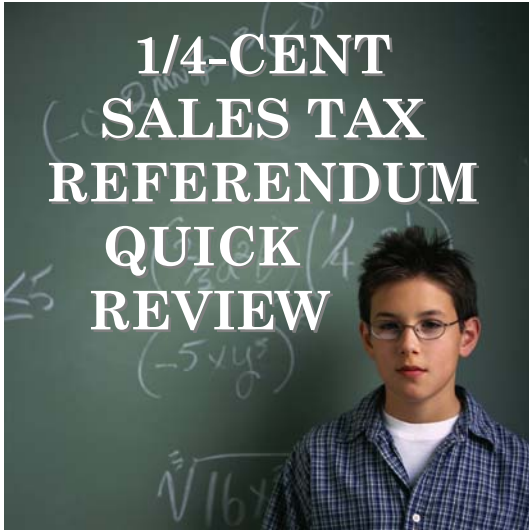
**Where do I go to vote?** This is a countywide election, so you will go to your usual polling place. For more information on precinct locations, registration or One Stop Voting information, call the Sampson County Board of Elections at 592-5796.

### SAMPSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

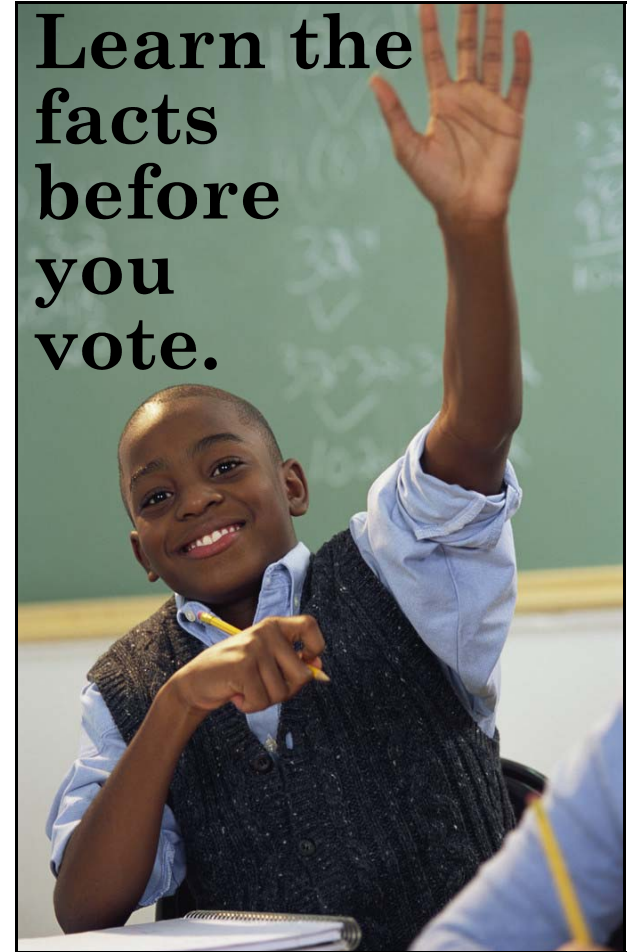
Jeffrey S. Wilson, Chairman  
Jefferson B. Strickland, Vice Chairman  
John A. Blanton  
Malachi Faison  
Jarvis. H. McLamb

*Citizen education paid for by  
Sampson County Local  
Government.*

*For more information,  
592-6308  
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- ✓ Everybody benefits, and everybody pays.
- ✓ 1/4 cent sales tax generates 3 times more revenue than 1 penny on the property tax.
- ✓ The sales tax will be used to mitigate our need for future tax increases.
- ✓ Non-residents pay sales tax too, lessening the burden on property owners and elderly homeowners on fixed incomes.
- ✓ Know the facts. Vote on November 6, 2007.



Learn the facts before you vote.

### SAMPSON COUNTY 1/4-CENT SALES TAX REFERENDUM

**NOVEMBER 6, 2007**

**The Sampson County Board of Commissioners made a commitment to building new schools.**

North Carolina General Statutes obligate counties to fund school buildings. But, beyond that, it is our civic responsibility to provide our children with the best educational environment possible and our communities with school facilities that support and promote our economic vitality. Therefore, in 2005, the Board



undertook an aggressive capital program that includes three new high schools

and a new elementary school, as well as a new detention center and more efficient county government office facilities. The total cost for these obligations: \$134.7 million.

**Now, it's time to decide if there is a better way to pay for them.**

**Wasn't Medicaid relief supposed to help?**

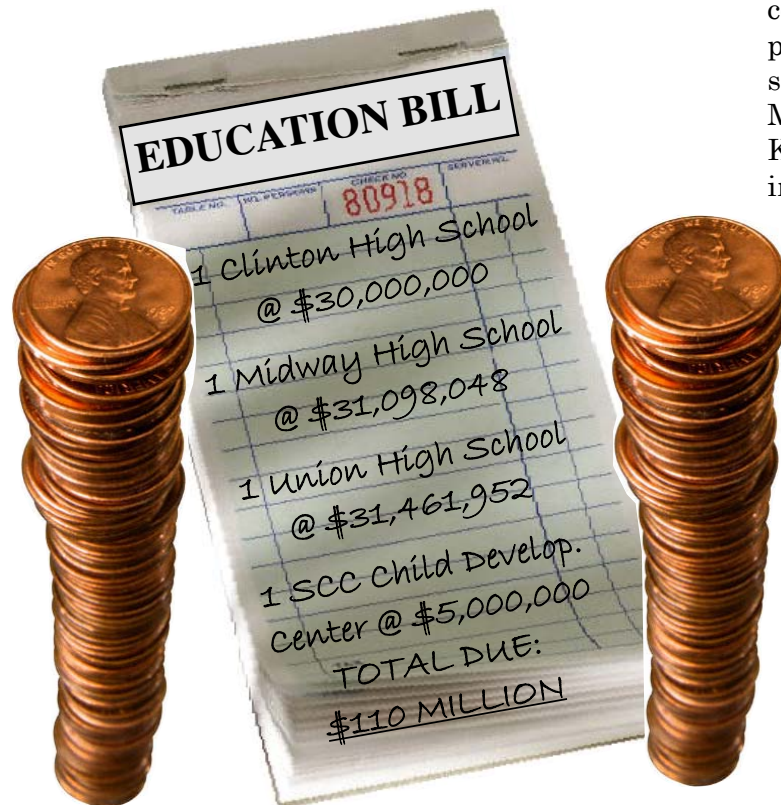
Yes, the General Assembly voted this year to assume counties' cost for Medicaid over a period of three years (Sampson County's cost is about \$4 million a year). However, in exchange for this relief, the county will give up its Article 44 half-cent sales tax, and our proceeds from the Article 42 sales tax will be distributed differently. Bottom line, Medicaid relief alone will not be enough to pay the debt.

**How about the "education" lottery?**

This is not a stable source of revenue yet. The County's proceeds from the lottery have been 22% less than originally projected, and changes in the 2007 laws will decrease these funds as well. As with Medicaid relief, lottery funds alone will not be enough to pay the debt.

**Property taxes?**

The financial model adopted for our capital projects calls for the majority of costs to be paid by property taxes. But, this would require a potential increase in the property tax rate over five years of 24 cents for debt service and 6 cents for the operating costs of the new buildings, a total of 30 cents. But, is this the best way to pay?



**There is another choice.**

In 2007, as part of their Medicaid relief package, the General Assembly authorized counties to either levy a land transfer tax



or a 1/4 cent sales tax - subject to voter approval. The Sampson County Board of Commissioners - responding to what our citizens have told us - chose to put the sales tax on the ballot this November 6. Now you get a choice.

**Why is the 1/4 cent sales tax the better choice?**

Everybody benefits, so everybody pays. A sales tax allows all citizens to make their fair contribution to school needs - not just the property tax owners. Also, non-residents shopping in our county help pay too. Many hands make light work, as they say. Keeping the property tax down is important in recruiting new industry to our county, important to helping our elderly or disabled citizens on a fixed income who can't afford higher property taxes. Besides, think about it, if you spend \$4, your added cost would only be 1 shiny penny!

**Let's compare:**

**1 penny of property tax = \$315,484/yr**

**1/4 penny of sales tax = \$911,308 (that's 3 pennies!)**