

On the Ballot

School Safety Enhancements

School Building Improvements

Do you want to help Cleveland County Schools with safety and building improvements?

VOTE NOV. 8

www.clevelandcounty.com

Sales Tax Referendum: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the current sales tax rate for Cleveland County?

The current sales tax rate for Cleveland County is 6.75%. If approved, the sales tax rate would be 7.0%. For the average consumer, the increase would equate to 1 cent for every \$4 spent or approximately \$1.50 per month.

Who put this issue on the ballot?

In 2007, the NC General Assembly granted county boards of commissioners the authority to levy, subject to voter approval, an additional one-quarter of a percent county sales tax. On June 21, 2022, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution calling for a Nov. 8 referendum concerning the one-quarter of a percent county sales and use tax.

What will these funds be used for?

The Board of Commissioners resolved to designate funds raised through the one-quarter of a percent sales tax to be used to support Cleveland County Schools.

How much money will be raised through this tax?

Cleveland County Government estimates, based on current sales tax figures, that the one-quarter of a percent sales tax would generate approximately \$3 million annually.

How much will the sales and use tax impact purchases by an individual?

The additional one-quarter of a percent sales tax will cost one penny for every four dollars spent. On a \$100 purchase, the impact would be 25 cents.

Are there items exempt from the sales tax?

Exemptions from the tax include gas purchases and unprepared food (groceries). This tax will apply to all persons shopping in Cleveland County, not just county residents. For a full listing of items exempted from sales tax, please see [North Carolina General Statute 105-164.13](#).

Has the sales tax referendum been on ballots in other counties?

Yes, 46 counties have approved the sales tax increase including our neighbors Gaston, Lincoln, Rutherford, and Catawba counties.

How does this compare to property taxes?

The one-quarter of a cent sales tax increase would generate nearly twice the amount of revenue from a one percent increase in property tax.

If the sales tax passes, will my property taxes be increased?

The sales tax lessens the pressure on property tax. A strategic goal of Cleveland County Commissioners for several years has been to “seek alternatives for increasing revenues to lessen the county’s burden on property taxes.”

How is a sales tax different from property tax?

Property taxes are assessed based on property ownership. Sales taxes are consumption-based taxes. Keeping property taxes low can help encourage economic development. Sales taxes are generated from residents as well as tourists and visitors to Cleveland County who help support county services through sales tax dollars.

What will I see on the ballot?

The form of the ballot question for the additional one-quarter of a percent sales tax is mandated by [NC General Statute 105-537\(c\)](#). Please see below:

One-Quarter Percent Local Sales and Use Tax
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.
<input type="radio"/> For
<input type="radio"/> Against
End of Ballot