



Auburn Community Unit District No. 10



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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COUNTY SCHOOLS FACILITY SALES TAX

In 2007 a law was passed in Illinois to give counties the ability to shift the way schools fund their facility improvements. The County Schools Facility Sales Tax has already passed in 51 counties throughout Illinois. Sangamon County is now considering this as an option. It is a fundamental shift in funding.

The County Schools Facility Sales Tax, often referred to as the Penny Sales Tax, is money raised through putting a 1%, or penny, sales tax only on goods that are currently being taxed. It does not include cars, trucks, ATVs, boats, RVs, mobile homes, unprepared food, drugs (including over-the-counter and vitamins), farm equipment or parts. Services are not taxed. This money goes directly to the schools with students who live in the county proportionately by enrollment. A large percentage of the revenue is projected to come from people who are visiting.

The question was put on the ballot in 2010 and it passed in Auburn, but failed county-wide. On November 6, the voters in Sangamon County will once again be given the opportunity to decide. It is important that you are knowledgeable about this topic so you can make an informed decision at the polls.

The revenue can only be used for school facility improvements or to pay off facility-related debt that is being paid through the property tax levy. It is a unique tax because it has the ability to lower property taxes or keep property taxes from increasing through incurred debt.

The revenue cannot be used for salaries, textbooks or any other expense not directly related to school facility improvements.

It is projected that if the County Schools Facility Sales Tax passes in Sangamon County, the Auburn School District would benefit by \$932,000 annually. Springfield Schools would see an additional \$10,140,088 for building improvements. All county schools would benefit based on student enrollment.

If you have more questions regarding the County Schools Facility Sales Tax, visit our website www.auburn.k12.il.us or contact me through email or by calling the district office.

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