

**Q. How will the sales surtax money be spent?**

**A.** Authorization of a half-cent sales surtax is estimated to bring in \$25 million dollars annually to complete critical renewal projects and technology infrastructure. A large sum of money such as this makes it essential that the district shares with the community exactly how that money will be spent and how it will ensure that it is spent according to plan.

**Q. What will be in the district plan?**

**A.** The Osceola School District has deferred critical maintenance and renovation projects for several years due to a significant decrease in available capital funding.

**Q. How has this impacted our schools?**

**A.** Instead of being able to replace aging HVAC systems, roofs, and other critical building components as it normally would, the district has continued to patch these items instead. We are now at a point where they are beginning to fail completely and need to be replaced. The bulk of the projects will be for items such as these, as well as for technology and security upgrades.

**Q. What won't be in the district's plan on how to spend the half-cent revenue?**

**A.** New school construction to accommodate student growth will not be funded through the sales surtax. New schools will continue to be funded through existing revenue sources, such as impact fees.

**Q. What does the capital outlay plan include?**

**A.** Our facilities team has done a building-by-building analysis to identify projects and prioritize them based on needs. A school-by-school list is published on the district's website. Throughout the 20-year period of the half-cent sales tax if approved by voters, every school in Osceola County would benefit from capital improvements.

**Q. Can money raised from the half-cent surtax be transferred to operating to pay teacher salaries?**

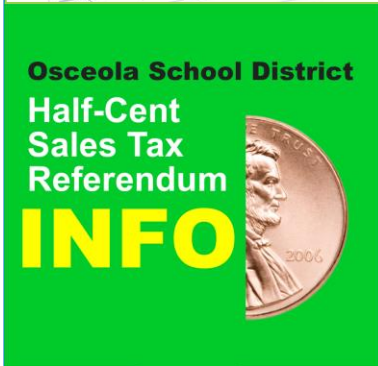
**A.** No. State law clearly indicates that money raised by the half-cent sales tax can only be used for capital projects for schools in Osceola County.

**Q. Who will pay the half-cent sales surtax?**

**A.** The half-cent sales surtax shifts some of the tax necessary to repair and renew facilities and technology from homeowners to anyone purchasing taxable products and services in Osceola County, including non-residents such as visitors and tourists.

**Q. How much will tourists pay?**

**A.** We anticipate approximately half of this revenue to come from tourists and others residing outside of Osceola County.



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**Q. What will Osceola residents pay?**

**A.** The actual cost will vary from person to person based on spending patterns. This means that people who dine out more frequently or spend more at retail outlets will pay a bit more than those who don't. However for the sake of reference, a family with a household income of \$50,000 per year can expect to spend up to 10% of their income on taxable items. This would equate to an additional \$25 dollars per year for this family.

**Q. How much more will it cost per transaction?**

**A.** As an example, the current tax for a pair of \$30 shoes is \$2.10. The half cent from the surtax will add 15¢ to that cost. Currently, a person buying a \$500 television will pay \$35 in sales tax. If the half-cent surtax is approved, he or she will pay an additional \$2.50.

**Q. What about large purchases such as a car or a boat?**

**A.** The law allows the sales surtax to be added to the first \$5,000 of any large purchase. So, a car priced at \$20,000 will have an additional sales surtax of \$25.

**Q. If approved by the voters, can any of this money be taken away by the state of Florida?**

**A.** No. State law clearly indicates that money raised by the half-cent sales surtax can only be used to support capital projects for schools in Osceola County.

**Q. What percentage of lottery dollars are used to fund education?**

**A.** Only 35-40% of all money collected through the lottery program goes to the state education budget. Fifty percent is used for prizes, and the remaining 10-15% funds the operations of running the lottery.

**Q. What can lottery money be used for?**

**A.** The lottery program funds school district operations and capital needs, as well as colleges and universities, and for student financial aid programs, including Bright Futures Scholarships.


**Q. Why is the district not able to use this money for current capital needs?**

**A.** In the late 1990s and early 2000s, much of the lottery money was bonded by the State to pay for classrooms needed due to growth and the class-size reduction amendment. Lottery dollars are still being used to pay off the debt incurred during that time period.

**Q. What lottery money does Osceola School District receive?**

**A.** Approximately \$68M is used to pay for classroom teachers out of class-size reduction operating dollars. In addition, \$1.8M is allocated for school recognition, as required by law. There are no additional discretionary lottery funds available.

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Half-Cent  
Sales Tax  
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