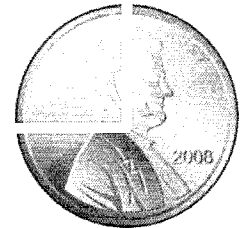


The November 2014
Mecklenburg County Sales Tax Referendum
Helping Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools prepare
Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners has voted to put a proposal for a quarter-cent (one fourth of a penny) sales tax increase on the ballot Nov. 4. If approved by voters, the commissioners will give 80 percent of the funds generated by the sales tax, which is expected to bring in approximately \$35 million a year, to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). Other beneficiaries will be Central Piedmont Community College, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and the Arts & Science Council. CMS' projected portion of about \$26-\$28 million in annual revenue will be used to enhance salaries for district employees. Here are some facts about how the funds could be used to support CMS employees, students and families.



The sales tax revenue could:

1 Help make Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools more competitive locally and nationally.

This year, the General Assembly voted to give NC teachers an average – *not an across the board* – salary increase of seven percent. The budget takes a meaningful first step toward making NC teacher pay more competitive – but it is not enough to close the salary gap with neighboring states and the national average. Money from the quarter-cent sales tax would help to further increase salaries for CMS employees in 2015-16. More competitive salaries could help CMS attract and retain the nation's best educators and support staff for the students and families of Mecklenburg County.

2 Help make pay raises more equitable.

The state salary increases adopted this year do not apply to all teachers equally. The increase ranges from 18.5 percent for teachers in the first few years of a teaching career to 0.3 percent for veteran teachers. The salary increases for support staff such as bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers were also varied. State support staff were given a \$1,000 raise while the same positions within school districts will receive \$500. Money from the quarter-cent sales tax could help CMS address some of these pay variances.

3 Help more CMS employees earn a living wage.

Fifty-nine percent of CMS employees earn less than an annual living wage in our area for a family of four (*two adults, two children*). *Eighty-three percent* reside and pay taxes in Mecklenburg County. The sales tax increase could provide a sustainable revenue source to help CMS employees earn a more livable wage to support their families.



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Voter Information

When is the vote?

The general election is Nov. 4, 2014.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

The deadline to register for the general election is Oct. 10, 2014.

How can I register to vote?

To register, pick up a form at any Charlotte-Mecklenburg public library or at the Board of Elections office (741 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 202). You can also visit the Board of Elections website at www.meckboe.org to download a copy of the registration application. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of North Carolina and Mecklenburg County for 30 days, and at least 18 years old.

Can I vote early?

Yes. Early voting begins **Oct. 23, 2014**, and ends **Nov. 1, 2014, at 1 p.m.** There will be 21 early-voting sites. Please check the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections website (<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/BOE/Pages/default.aspx?src=ud>) for locations and hours of operation.

Absentee voting

Citizens may print an absentee-voting application from the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections website and mail or fax (704-343-0537) it back to the Board of Elections. The address is 741 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 202, Charlotte, NC 28204.

Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed **Friday, Sept. 5, 2014**. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail is **Oct. 28, 2014**. Absentee ballots must be returned in person by **5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014**. If mailing, absentee ballots must be postmarked by **Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014**.

Questions?

For general voting questions, please call the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections: (704) 336-2133. For CMS questions, please call CMS Communications Services at (980) 343-7450 or email your questions to cmscommunications@cms.k12.nc.us.



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