

# GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Half Cent Sales Tax Initiative

### What is it?

It is a request for Gadsden County residents to approve the use of one-half of a penny collected in sales tax to maintain school district facilities.

### Who determine how the funds are used?

The District Facilities Committee meets on a regular basis to review facilities needs across the district. The committee makes recommendations to the Superintendent and Board regarding the use of the sales tax dollars. The District Facilities Committee is facilitated by the Office of Support Services and consist of the following positions: facilities director, finance director, technology director, school safety coordinator, district risk manager, assistant superintendent for academic services, assistant superintendent for support services, superintendent, school board representative, and no less than two (2) community members.

The School Board must comply with State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF).

### How does the half cent sales tax benefit Gadsden County School District?

The annual half cent dollars support the routine maintenance, repairs, and replacements needed for the up keep of district facilities. This helps to ensure students and staff have quality learning and work environments.

### What are some examples of how the half cent dollars may be used?

Capital improvements for schools and district facilities:

- a. Upgrading and modernizing schools and district facilities to keep them safe and make them more conducive to learning through renovations, repairs, remodeling, and technology upgrades.
- b. Reducing portable classrooms as appropriate to improve school facilities.
- c. Enhance athletic fields, including but not limited to addressing handicap accessibility and safety.



***“Gadsden Countians Working Together to Educate Every Student Today  
To Make Gadsden Stronger Tomorrow”***

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the sales tax assessment in Gadsden County Florida?

The total combined sales tax rate in Gadsden County, Florida, is **7.5%** as of 2026. This rate consists of the 6.0% Florida state sales tax plus a 1.5% county-specific discretionary sales surtax.

### Key Details

- **Total Rate:** 7.5% (6% State + 1.5% County).
  - **Application:** The 1.5% local surtax applies to taxable merchandise or services delivered in Gadsden County.
  - **Motor Vehicles:** According to the [Gadsden County Tax Collector](#), the 1.5% local option tax is levied on motor vehicles, vessels, or mobile homes, but usually capped at \$75.00 on the first of the sales price.
  - **Exemptions:** Similar to the rest of Florida, common groceries (food for home consumption) are generally exempt from this sales tax.
2. What is a Sales Tax?  
A sales tax is a consumption-based tax imposed by state and local governments on the sale of goods and services. It is added to the price of taxable items and collected from the consumer by the retailer at the point of purchase. Revenue generated is used to fund public services like schools, roads, and healthcare.
3. Will the County sales tax increase if the District's half cent sales tax initiative pass?  
Yes, the sales tax will increase to 8% (one half of a penny).
4. How much money for the school district will be generated from the sales tax?  
Base of the most recent data on sales taxes collected in Gadsden County (previous 12 months), it is projected that approximately \$2,363,822.24 will be generated annually for the school district.
5. How will the sales tax money be used for the school district?  
The sales tax dollars can only be used for the maintenance and up-keep of district facilities.
6. Who decides how the half cent sales revenue is use?  
The State requires the establishment of a Facilities Committee that includes a board member and at least two representatives from the community. The Facilities Committee makes annual recommendations to the Superintendent and Board regarding which facilities-needs should be addressed.
7. Will the sales tax increase my property taxes?  
No, you only pay the sales tax when you buy taxable items.
8. Will the Charter school receive a portion of the sales tax revenue?  
Yes, the Charter school will receive a portion of the sales tax based on State guidelines for charter school financial allocations.

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***We are better together!***