

Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15 District Dispatch –August 2018



A Publication for Community Members

From the Superintendent's Desk

Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax

On November 6, 2018, the voters of Sangamon County will be asked to approve a proposal to provide funding to all county school districts through a 1-cent retail sales tax increase. The revenue from this Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax will be generated from Sangamon County residents and more importantly from the people who visit and travel through Sangamon County. The revenue can only be used to maintain and improve school facilities or to make payments on existing bond debt. The Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax is a shift from exclusively relying on local property taxes to fund school facilities.

The WCUSD#15 Board of Education has passed a resolution publicly verifying the use of the revenue. The Sangamon County Schools Facility Sales Tax funding will provide the revenue to:

- Enhance School Security and Safety
- Pay off existing annual Debt Certificate payments
- Pay for Health Life Safety expenses
- Pay for the deferred maintenance on all District buildings
- Pay for District Facility upgrades

This topic will be discussed at great length in the coming months. The information below will ensure you are fully informed about the topic.

The question on the ballot will appear as follows:

“Shall a retailer’s occupation tax and service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a “Sales Tax” be imposed in Sangamon County at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes?”

The penny increase (or 1%) in the Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax will annually generate approximately \$1,060,000 for WCUSD#15.

The Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax revenues can be used for:

- Safety and security improvements
- Paying of building bonds or existing facility debt
- New or remodeled school facilities
- Land acquisitions & Architectural planning and engineering
- Energy efficiency
- Durable Equipment

The Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax revenues cannot be used for operating costs such as:

- Salaries and benefits
- Instructional costs
- Textbooks and computers
- Moveable equipment
- School Buses
- Operating Costs

Unlike many types of sales tax, this specific tax does not tax items that many people think to be essential to families, and especially, senior citizens.

The increased sales tax does not apply to:

- Cars, trucks, ATV's, boats, and RV or mobile homes
- Unprepared food (groceries)
- Medicine including prescriptions drugs and over the counter drugs
- Farm equipment, parts and farm inputs
- If it is not currently taxed, it will not be taxed

How much more would I be paying if the Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax passed?

- \$100.00 of grocery food = no increase
- \$50.00 of gas = 50 cents
- \$35,000 car/truck = no increase
- \$7.00 of fast food = 7 cents
- \$450.00 TV = \$4.50
- \$40.00 of medicine = no increase

WCUSD#15 has not had the revenue over the past several years to maintain our facilities and buildings. The 1-cent Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax would allow the district to begin the much-needed improvements previously mentioned and ensure our facilities provide a safe, secure, and comfortable learning environment for generations to come.

The WCUSD#15 Board of Education wants each of you to have accurate information about the Sangamon County School Facility Sales Tax and how it will

impact our schools. Please remember to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 6th. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Tip Reedy WCUSD#15 Superintendent (217)566-2014 or visit our website www.wcusd15.org.

For up to date district information, I encourage you to follow me on twitter @wcusd15supt, check our website www.wcusd15.org, and like our district Facebook page Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLET!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tip Reedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Tip Reedy
reedy@wcusd15.org
(217) 566-2014
@wcusd15supt