

# School Facility Tax

## For Unity Point School District #140

On November 8, a one-percent sales tax proposal is on the ballot in Jackson County. The revenue from this sales tax, if passed, can only be used to improve school facilities or retire new or existing building bonds. Our Board of Education voted to place this proposal on the ballot because it will provide a reliable source of revenue to keep our schools up-to-date and, at the same time, provide property tax relief to our residents.

This one-percent sales tax can be used to provide:

- 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms
- Energy efficient heating and air conditioning
- Improved safety and security for our students
- Funding to keep roofs, windows and doors in good working order
- Up-to-date labs and technology
- Property tax relief for our residents

### Property Tax Relief

All across Illinois there has been a call for property tax relief. This proposal, in part, is an answer to that call. Traditionally, all school building improvements have been funded through property taxes. By passing this proposal, much of the burden for funding public education facility improvements will be shifted to a sales tax – and a sales tax that is very equitable and fair in its design (see the back page).

If this proposal passes, our District will have the ability to keep our facilities up-to-date and in good working order without a total reliance on property taxes.

### Specific Improvements for Our District

Listed below are the specific plans for our District should this proposal pass.

#### Unity Point School District #140

- Roof Replacement and Repairs (1986 Addition, Library, 1964 Gym, Junior High Addition)
- HVAC Replacement for 2003 Addition
- Carpet Replacement (Library, Band Room, Speech Room, 2003 Office)
- 10-Year Health, Life, Safety Survey Required Upgrades (Fire Rated Classroom Doors)
- Electrical, Phone, Security System and Technology Infrastructure Upgrades
- Phillippe Field Upgrades
- Refinish Ludwick Gym Floor
- Construction of All-Weather Practice Track
- Parking Lot Repair and Maintenance
- Early Pay-Off of 2007 QZAB Bonds
- Construction of Pre-K Facility



### Be Informed and Remember to Vote

This proposal is important to the future of our District. Please be fully informed on this issue and remember to vote. There is more information about this proposal on the back of this flyer.



**Election: November 8, 2016**

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The County School Facility Sales Tax represents the first shift away from relying on property taxes for local school district funding in Illinois. The law went into effect in 2007 (based on a similar law in Iowa) allowing voters to approve a sales tax to fund school facility needs. The sales tax is for one cent on every dollar spent on qualifying retail purchases. School Boards representing over 60% of the resident student enrollment in Jackson County have passed resolutions approving the sales tax resolution, and the question will be placed on the ballot at the next scheduled election.

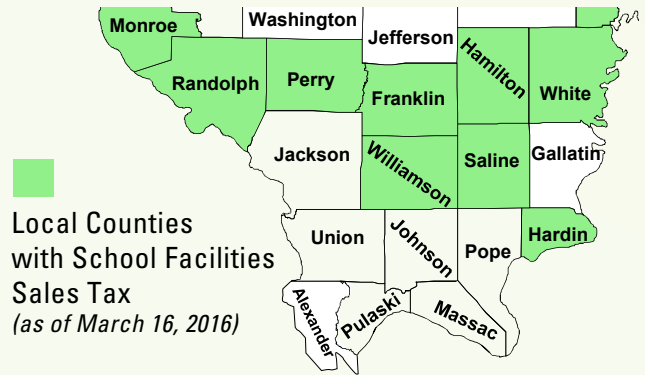
### A More Equitable Sales Tax

The design of this sales tax is more equitable to those living on fixed incomes or in professions that could be severely impacted by a new sales tax.

### It is important to know what is **NOT** subject to this tax

- Unprepared Food (groceries)
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
- Cars, Trucks, ATVs, Boats, RVs and Mobile Homes
- Farm Equipment, Parts and Farm Inputs
- Services are also not taxed
- If it is not currently taxed, it will not be taxed

### Improved School Facilities Comes Down To Location! Location! Location!



### Revenue Can Only Be Used to Support Facility Improvements

Revenue from this one-percent sales tax can only be used for improving school facilities or for retiring new or current building bonds. It cannot be used for salaries, instructional materials, or other operating costs. Specifically, it can be used for:

- New School Facilities
- Additions and Renovations
- Land Acquisition
- Safety and Security Improvements
- Energy Efficiency
- Paying Off Building Bonds
- Architectural Planning/Engineering
- Durable Equipment



### Questions or More Information

To learn more about what the county school facility sales tax means to you call **Dr. Lori James-Gross**, Unity Point School District #140 at **(618) 529-4151** or email **ljgross@up140.org**.

Please take the time to learn about this important issue.