

On November 3, 2026, Charleston County voters will decide whether to extend the existing one-cent education sales tax that has funded school construction, renovations, and major facility improvements throughout Charleston County for over 15 years.

If approved, the referendum:

- Does **not** create a new tax
- Does **not** increase the current sales tax rate
- Continues the existing funding source for school capital improvements for a six-year term from 2029–2034

The one-cent education sales tax is collected on eligible purchases made throughout Charleston County. Because Charleston is a major tourist destination, **visitors contribute significantly to the one-cent education sales tax**, helping reduce the financial burden on local residents while supporting public school facilities.

How the Education Sales Tax Supports Students:

If approved by voters, the referendum would fund capital improvements such as: new school construction, replacement of aging school buildings, building additions and classroom expansions, major renovations, safety and security improvements, HVAC, roofs, plumbing, and electrical infrastructure, athletic facility improvements, Career & Technical Education facilities, Early Childhood and Universal Pre-K classrooms, technology replacement and innovation, and traffic improvements and campus circulation.

Modern schools provide safe, functional learning environments that support student success by:

- Improving safety and security
- Reducing disruptions caused by aging infrastructure
- Expanding access to specialized academic programs
- Supporting athletics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities
- Creating learning environments designed for today's educational needs

What projects are included in the referendum?

Projects are planned throughout the County and include the following:

New Schools:

- New elementary school in West Ashley
- Whole building renovation of CC Blaney for Baptist Hill Middle School

Building and Athletic Improvements:

- Renovations to James Island Elementary
- Car loop expansion at Camp Road Middle
- Baptist Hill High School softball field

Building Additions:

- Johns Island Elementary School
- Lucy Beckham High School
- Career Technology Wing at Burke High School
- Auditorium and Fine Arts classrooms at Baptist Hill High School
- Multi-purpose rooms at Edith Frierson Montessori School; East Cooper Montessori Charter School; and Belle Hall and AC Corcoran Elementary

Building Replacements:

- Midland Park Primary School
- Meeting Street School at Brentwood
- Orange Grove Charter Middle School
- Pattinson's Academy for Comprehensive Education (PACE)
- Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center
- Deer Park Middle School (Phase III)

- Multi-purpose room and classrooms at Pepperhill Elementary School
- Universal Pre-K classrooms at Laurel Hill Primary, Drayton Hall Elementary School and Hunley Park Elementary School

***These projects are potential projects listed in the Master Plan and remain subject to Board and voter approval through the referendum.*

Next Steps

- November 3, 2026: Charleston County voters consider the referendum.
- If approved: The existing one-cent education sales tax continues.
- 2029–2034: Approved capital improvement projects are completed.