

Questions & Answers

How does the E-SPLOST benefit children?

The **E-SPLOST** provides funding to help both school systems provide new or renovated classrooms, other school facilities, computer technology, buses, other equipment, and textbooks. If voters approve the **E-SPLOST**, all students in both systems will benefit from greater access to computer technology, and many students will enjoy new or renovated classrooms as well as new or renovated media centers, cafeterias, gymnasiums, and playgrounds.

Will voting “yes” on the E-SPLOST result in a sales tax increase?

No. The citizens of Thomasville/Thomas County approved a one-cent **Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax** for the school systems in 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2016. The current proposal will merely continue the sales tax that is already in place for an additional five years. Citizens will pay no more than they are currently paying. The new **E-SPLOST** would run through 2027 or until the tax generates \$54 million dollars.

How will E-SPLOST affect property taxes?

Property taxes and revenue from the **E-SPLOST** typically pay very different types of expenses. **E-SPLOST** funds may not be used to pay for salaries, utilities, and many other operational expenses that the school systems incur. Mandates issued by the state and federal governments as well as increases in fuel and other energy costs are beyond the control of the local boards of education, yet these factors have a great impact on property taxes which must be imposed to pay for these types of expenses. **E-SPLOST** funds may be used to renovate or replace aging facilities that would otherwise pose a financial drain on the school systems; therefore, the **E-SPLOST** would help the local boards set property tax rates that are lower than they would have to be without **E-SPLOST**.

“Why a SALES TAX?”

- Thomasville/Thomas County has **29% of the population** in our five county area.
- Thomasville/Thomas County has **47% of the jobs** in our five county area.
- Thomasville/Thomas County has **53% of the retail sales** in our five county area.
- Shoppers from out-of-town would help to support our schools.

(Percentages provided by the Thomasville-Thomas County Economic Development Authority)

What has been accomplished with previous E-SPLOST initiatives?

- New buildings for Hand-In-Hand Primary School, Thomas County Middle School, and Bishop Hall Charter School
- New media center, PREP academy, and locker rooms for Thomas County Central High School
- New career/science wing for Thomas County Middle School
- New gym for Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School
- Total modernization of Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School main building
- New air conditioning, ceiling and lights for Cross Creek Elementary School
- New classroom and administrative building for Jerger Elementary
- New Pre-K classrooms and cafeteria for Harper Elementary
- New front entrance and Pre-K classrooms for Scott Elementary
- New gym for Thomasville High School
- New classrooms and media center building for MacIntyre Park Middle School
- Computer technology, other equipment, school buses, textbooks and furnishings for schools in both systems
- Improvements to athletic facilities in both systems

Concerned Citizens for Better Schools

114 Sweetwater Drive
Thomasville, GA 31757

Chris Sellars, Chairman ♦ Allen Corbin, Treasurer
No public money or tax funds are used for this campaign.

E-SPLOST EDUCATION

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

Renewing our commitment to provide the best for our children!



MARCH 16, 2021

February 16

February 22
March 12

ELECTION DAY

Last day to register to vote

Early voting begins
Early voting ends

What is E-SPLOST?

In 1996, an amendment to the Georgia Constitution was passed to allow local boards of education the option of calling for a referendum to ask voters to approve an **Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax** for school improvements. Thomasville/Thomas County voters approved its first **E-SPLOST** in 2002. The **E-SPLOST** was renewed in 2007, 2012 and 2016.

Previous E-SPLOST programs have provided funding for the construction of new schools, additions and renovations to existing buildings, textbooks, school buses, computer technology, and other educational essentials.

Our schools have new and ongoing needs which can only be met by the continuation of this investment in our children. **On March 16, 2021**, a referendum will be held to seek continuation of the educational sales tax for another five years.

By voting **"YES,"** improvements to our schools are funded by everyone who spends money in the county regardless of where they live.

The business community benefits because a good school system drives the economic engine for Thomasville and Thomas County. A great deal of money generated by **E-SPLOST** is spent in the local community, providing work for local contractors and businesses. **E-SPLOST** also helps to keep property taxes lower by funding items that would otherwise have to be funded through property taxes.

Renewing the E-SPLOST will NOT raise sales taxes. Voting to renew the **E-SPLOST** will *not* result in a sales tax increase. Collections for **E-SPLOST V** would begin *only after E-SPLOST IV* expires. There would be *NO overlap in collections.*

What can



do for our children?

Thomasville City Schools

Harper Elementary

Total modernization to include:

- New heating and air conditioning systems
- New roof
- Miscellaneous renovations

Jerger Elementary

Total modernization to include:

- New heating and air conditioning systems
- New roof
- Miscellaneous renovations

Scott Elementary

Total modernization to include:

- New heating and air conditioning systems
- New roof
- Miscellaneous renovations

MacIntyre Park Middle/Thomasville High

- Total restoration of historic MacIntyre Park building
- Construction of a new academic wing on the MacIntyre Park campus
- Construction of a new cafeteria, gym, fine arts and CTAE classrooms
- Auditorium renovations
- Exterior lighting and parking lot improvements
- Miscellaneous renovations and site improvement

Athletics

- Improvements and renovations to athletic facilities
- New track

System-wide

- Renovations and improvements to the Federal Building (Board of Education offices)
- New school buses
- Computer technology and technology infrastructure
- New textbooks and digital content
- Fine arts, CTAE, instructional, and athletic equipment

Thomas County Schools

Hand-In-Hand Primary

- New air-conditioning, flooring, ceilings, lights, roof, and paint
- New or renovated classrooms to accommodate new programs and enrollment growth

Garrison-Pilcher Elementary

- Renovation of annex buildings
- New paving and campus improvements
- Security upgrades

Cross Creek Elementary

- New windows and doors
- Renovated restrooms
- New floor covering and paint

Thomas County Middle

- New air-conditioning, flooring, ceilings, lights, roof, and paint
- Improvement to physical education and athletic fields

Thomas County Central High School

- Construction of new multi-purpose building for classrooms, fine arts, JROTC, and athletics
- Computer technology and infrastructure

Bishop Hall Charter School

- New floor covering and paint

Athletics

- Improvement of baseball, softball, and soccer fields at Thomas County Middle School
- Improvements to the Yellow Jacket stadium
- New track at stadium
- Miscellaneous athletic equipment
- Improvements to all athletic facilities

System-wide

- Computers and related equipment including technology infrastructure
- New school buses and maintenance vehicles
- Renovations to Board of Education campus
- New textbooks and digital content
- Playground equipment and improvements for elementary schools
- Miscellaneous renovations and modifications to accommodate student growth and new programs

