



½ Penny for Schools

NCNC Monthly Meeting

Heather Frederick, CPA

Chief Financial Officer
September 24, 2024



An A-Rated School District

2024-25 FAST FACTS



RATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT



10TH

LARGEST
DISTRICT IN THE NATION



265

SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS
(2ND LARGEST POLICE FORCE IN COUNTY)

335



CHOICE, CAREER, AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES



33 MILLION
MEALS SERVED
ANNUALLY



182 SCHOOLS

1 SCHOOL ICON = 13 DISTRICT-OPERATED SCHOOLS

170,000+

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
PALM BEACH COUNTY



13,000+

CLASSROOM TEACHERS
IN PALM BEACH COUNTY



½ Penny Still Needed

- Maintain **over 30 million sq. ft. and \$9 billion dollars of buildings** to avoid creating deteriorating facilities and maintenance backlog
- **Existing funding streams are not sufficient** to maintain current needs due to escalation of construction, materials, and maintenance costs
- There are **no other funding options available** for schools
- Due to legislative changes, **school districts receive 25% less** in capital revenue as compared to 2008



 Lake Worth High School (1922 and present)



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY
½ PENNY PLAN



ENHANCES
school security
and safety



FUNDS
capital and maintenance
projects



IMPROVES
classroom technology
and equipment



UPGRADES
the school bus fleet



REINVESTS
in schools and facilities



THE ½ PENNY
is a continuation of an existing sales
tax rate for schools in Palm Beach
County and **will not raise taxes**



Referendum Projects

- **Buildings, Facilities and Equipment**
 - Safety and Security Enhancements
 - Planned Maintenance to Maintain Schools and Facilities
 - School-Based Initiatives
- **Technology**
- **School Buses**
- **Charter Schools**





Facts About the ½ Penny for Education

- ✓ **Dedicated Funding:** Dedicated funding for specific capital-related projects for traditional public and charter public schools.
- ✓ **All Funds Stay Local:** All funds stay in Palm Beach County and invests in our kids, classroom technology and school safety.
- ✓ **Does Not Raise Taxes:** The ½ penny is a continuation of an existing sales tax for schools and will not raise taxes.
- ✓ **Tax Has a Cap:** The ½ penny is capped at the first \$5,000 of a single consumer purchase.
- ✓ **Exemptions For Essentials:** Certain groceries, medicine, medical equipment, baby formula and diapers are generally exempt from all sales taxes.
- ✓ **Tourists and Visitors Pay:** Tourists and visitors also pay the sales tax.
- ✓ **Expires in 10 years:** The ½ penny expires in 10 years and cannot be extended without voter approval.
- ✓ **Oversight:** Overseen by an independent committee of local citizens and experts.



½ Penny for Schools and Kids on the November Ballot

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS SECURITY, TECHNOLOGY, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ONE-HALF CENT SALES SURTAX

To support educational opportunities for students by upgrading and enhancing safety and security of schools; classroom technology and equipment, school buildings and facilities, and school buses, for Palm Beach County traditional public and charter public schools; shall the School Board levy a one-half cent sales surtax beginning January 1, 2026 and, by law, automatically ending December 31, 2035, with oversight of all funds by an independent committee of citizens and experts?



_____ FOR THE ONE-HALF CENT TAX

_____ AGAINST THE ONE-HALF CENT TAX

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024



Three Ways to Vote



October 24

**Vote By Mail
Request Deadline**



October 21 - November 3

Early Voting



November 5

Election Day

Plan Endorsed By



Strong Schools, Strong Communities



StrongSchoolsPBC.com



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