



WHAT IS THE ONE-CENT SALES TAX?

The County School Facility Occupation Tax (CSFT) is a local sales tax authorized under Illinois law. The law allows voters to consider a sales tax to provide funding for eligible school facility needs.

The proposed rate is **1% — one cent for every dollar of qualifying purchases.**

Revenue generated from the tax is restricted by law and may only be used for specific purposes.

WHEN IS THE ONE-CENT SALES TAX ON THE BALLOT

On NOVEMBER 3, 2026, a one-cent sales tax proposal is on the ballot in Crawford County. Early voting in Crawford County begins on September 24, 2026.

WHAT WILL THE BALLOT QUESTION SAY?

By law, the wording must read exactly as follows:

Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "sales tax") be imposed in Crawford County at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals.

HOW CAN THE REVENUE BE USED?

Revenue from this one-cent sales tax can only be used for improving school facilities, retiring new or current building bonds, or for school resource officers and mental health professionals. It cannot be used for general school salaries, instructional materials, or other operating costs.

Specifically, it can be used for:

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| • New School Facilities | *Paying Off Building Bonds |
| • Additions and Renovations | *Architectural Planning/Engineering |
| • Land Acquisition | *Durable Equipment |
| • Safety and Security Improvements | *School resource officers |
| • Energy Efficiency | *Mental health professionals |

WHAT CAN'T THE REVENUE BE USED FOR?

The revenue is not general operating revenue and cannot simply be used for any school expense.

It cannot be used for:

- General school salaries (when not explicitly authorized by the statute)
- Instructional materials
- Routine operating expenses
- Other expenses not authorized under the County School Facility Occupation Tax law

WHAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE ONE-CENT SALES TAX?

- Unprepared Food (groceries)
- Prescriptions and Over-the-Counter Medications
- Cars, Trucks, ATV's, Boats, RV's, and Mobile Homes
- Farm Equipment, Parts, and Farm Inputs
- Services are also not taxed.
- The tax does not create a new tax on items not already subject to sales tax

WHAT WOULD THE ONE-CENT SALES TAX LOOK LIKE?

The proposed tax is 1% of qualifying purchases.

PURCHASE	ADDITIONAL TAX
\$15,000 car/truck	NO INCREASE
\$100 grocery purchase	NO INCREASE

\$40 medicine	NO INCREASE
\$50 gasoline	50¢
\$7 fast food	7¢
\$450 television	\$4.50
\$70 pair of shoes	70¢

HOW DOES OBLONG CUSD #4 CURRENTLY USE ONE-CENT SALES TAX MONEY?

Oblong CUSD 4 currently receives CSFT revenue from Jasper County residencies in the Oblong School District. In the 2026 school year, Oblong CUSD #4 received \$32,320.56 based on student enrollment. In 2025, Oblong CUSD #4 spent \$40,000 of CSFT funds to put key fobs on selected exterior and interior doors at Oblong Grade School and Oblong High School.

WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS THE LAW WOULD ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION OF OBLONG CUSD #4 TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DO IF THE SALES TAX IS APPROVED?

- HIRE A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
- HIRE A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
- INSTALL ADDITIONAL KEY FOBS AT THE GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
- UPDATE SCIENCE LABS AND THE FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE LAB (HOME ECONOMICS)
- ROOF REPAIRS AT BOTH THE GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
- RESTROOM FACILITY UPGRADES AT HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADE SCHOOL
- UPGRADES TO THE GREENHOUSE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

HAVE OTHER COUNTIES NEAR CRAWFORD COUNTY APPROVED A ONE-CENT SCHOOL FACILITY SALES TAX?

Several counties in the surrounding area have approved a County School Facility Sales Tax.

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| • Edgar County | Jasper County |
| • Edwards County | Lawrence County |
| • Coles County | Richland County |
| • Cumberland County | Wabash County |

WHO MAY I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

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