



**Learn More:
Hononegah Library
Feb. 23rd
6:30 PM**

**1% Sales Tax
For Winnebago
County Schools**



Abatement & Debt Recovery



New Buildings & Renovations



Security Upgrades



School Resource Officers & Mental Health Professionals

What is it?

The County School Facilities Sales Tax, modeled after a similar Iowa program, was created in 2007 to fund school facility improvements and reduce reliance on property taxes in Illinois. It is a sales tax of up to one percent on selected purchases.

It has been passed by 58 of the 102 counties in Illinois, including Boone County!

Uses of Sales Tax Funds

- New Facilities
- Additions & Enhancements
- Technology Infrastructure
- Architectural Planning
- Durable Equipment
- Fire Prevention & Life Safety
- Land Acquisition
- Roof Repairs/Energy Efficiency
- Parking Lots
- Demolition
- SRO's/Mental Health Professionals

How it will appear on your ballot:

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

**Primary Election:
March 17, 2026**

1% Sales Tax for Winnebago County Schools

What is NOT taxed?

- ⊗ Unprepared Food (groceries)
- ⊗ Prescriptions & over-the-counter medications
- ⊗ Anything purchased at wholesale level
- ⊗ Cars, Trucks, ATVs, Boats, RVs, & Mobile Homes
- ⊗ Services

EXAMPLES:

McDonald's meal \$18 = 18¢
 Haircut = not taxed (service)
 TV at BestBuy \$750 = \$7.50
 Ground Beef = not taxed (unprepared food)
 Gasoline \$64 = 64¢

How are funds distributed?

Funds are divided between school districts based on each district's share of public school students residing in Winnebago County.

Funds are distributed directly to school districts and do not flow through the Illinois General Assembly budget process.

Property Tax Offset

The 1% sales tax acts as a direct offset to the property tax burden, providing an alternative revenue stream that reduces the district's reliance on property tax collections.

Impact of Regional Traffic on Sales Tax

Anyone who shops in Winnebago County, including those who do not live here, contributes toward keeping our schools up to date.

Because the county sits at the intersection of I-90 and I-39, much of its sales tax revenue comes from travelers passing through the region, not just local residents.

Scan for More Info



What would we do with the funds?

School District	Projected Annual CFST Revenue	Proposed Usage
Kinnikinnick CCSD #131	\$1.48 Million	* Tax Relief for Property Owners * Strengthening School Safety * Classroom & Facility Enhancements
Hononegah CHSD #207	\$1.59 Million	
Prairie Hill SD #133	\$698K	
Rockton SD #140	\$1.39 Million	
Shirland SD #134	\$87K	

For Questions or More Information, Contact Keli Freedlund, Supt.