



## Jackson County One-Fourth of a Penny Referendum On the Ballot June 7



The One-Fourth of a Penny referendum would allow SCC to start tackling the nearly \$32 million in vital construction, renovation and repair projects identified by the college's recent Jackson County master plan.

The referendum would allow Jackson County Public Schools to bridge the gap between the recent \$9 million infusion from County Commissioners and the more than \$20 million in estimated repair, renovation and classroom construction.

### POTENTIAL PROJECTS

#### Southwestern Community College

- Construction of a new health sciences building to prepare next generation of healthcare workers in SCC's service area.
- STEM education classrooms/Balsam Center Renovations.
- Repair and Renovation of Oaks Hall, which is 45 years old and primarily houses classrooms and labs.

#### Jackson County Public Schools (JCPS)

- The critical needs of water supply upgrades.
- Many facility upgrades including new classroom construction and flooring as well as athletics needs.
- Improvement of safety and aesthetic issues at the entrance to Blue Ridge School.





"We definitely have a need for more space. I came in the first day, and mannequins were everywhere. We have a variety of equipment needs, and it would be nice to have the ambulance closer to our building — it's currently on the other side of campus."  
—Rebecca Prichard  
first-year EMS student



"There's a huge nursing shortage in Western North Carolina, and SCC has the potential to fill a lot of those voids. We could definitely benefit from a new health sciences building. The rooms are crowded, everything we need won't fit into our current lab, and we just need more updated space in which to learn."  
—Erik Monsrud  
SCC Nursing Student



"Our school system needs continued and increased funding to equip every classroom and in fact every student with the skills and tools needed to compete in our technology driven, competitive job market."  
—Linda S. Haggard  
Smoky Mountain High School  
Choral Music Teacher/Director

"Investing in improvements of local school facilities is critical to building an educational environment that reaches a broad range of needs and offers opportunities for student success."  
—S. Eleanor Crowe Young M.A.T.  
Blue Ridge Early College  
Social Studies Department



### SCC'S NEED

4

Number of health sciences programs at SCC when Balsam Center was constructed in 1987.

14

Number of health sciences programs now housed in Balsam Center.

563

Health sciences applicants turned down from their desired program of study in 2016-17 due to lack of resources.

100

More health sciences students potentially accepted into their desired field after completion of new building.



Potential Future Health Sciences Building



"With new funding going toward athletics, we could get a new softball field so all sports could be played here at the high school campus."  
—Jayce Wolfe, student



"With this new funding, we could get better classrooms."  
—Damon Ledford, student



"With this funding, we could install a new track ... and provide more gear for team sports."  
—Aaliyah McCollum, student



"We could benefit a lot from the extra money. We could update our plumbing systems for better water and bathrooms."  
—Montrell Turner, student



Balsam Center Now

"I'm the first person in my family to attend college, so that is what really encouraged me to do everything I possibly could to make my parents (Lisa and Dan Shomper) proud and get into the nursing program."

—Danielle Shomper,  
SCC's first RIBN  
graduate



*"With this extra funding, we could enhance our plumbing system. This would help us have better drinking water."*  
—Taryn Ledford



"A vital thing Blue Ridge is missing is a gathering place, an area large enough to accommodate the student body for assemblies, or for hosting relatives and friends for evening meetings, plays and concerts. As students develop musical skill and understanding they need to be able to share what they have accomplished. The one-fourth of one penny referendum can help make this dream possible."  
—Sarah Hall, K-13 Music Teacher  
Blue Ridge School

"In order to be successful individuals, students need the latest curriculum and technologies available. This referendum will help them become more globally prepared in a very competitive world."  
—Suzanne Tompkins  
Smoky Mountain High School  
World Languages Dept Chair



- U.S. Bureau of Labor estimates 1.2 million registered nurse vacancies will emerge nationwide between 2014-22.
- N.C. Dept. of Commerce projects a 31.9 percent increase in need for more nurses statewide through the year 2022.
- With a new health sciences building, SCC would have the capacity to potentially train 17 additional nurses each year.
- Jackson County's population is projected to grow by 11.2 percent over the next 14 years (N.C. Office of State Planning)—meaning more people will be in need of quality healthcare.





### MINIMAL INVESTMENT

- When you spend \$100, the additional cost will be \$0.25.
- \$500 = \$1.25
- Spending \$1,000 would mean just \$2.50 extra.
- As a sales tax, the referendum allows money spent by tourists and visitors to support Jackson County Education.

### ENORMOUS RETURN

- Address vital infrastructure and facility needs in Jackson County Schools and Southwestern Community College.

### Q&A

**Q:** Does the extra one-fourth of a penny apply to all purchases?

**A:** No, the tax will not be applied to gas or unprepared food.



**Q:** Have nearby counties adopted the one-fourth of a penny sales tax to support education?

**A:** Yes, Haywood and Buncombe.

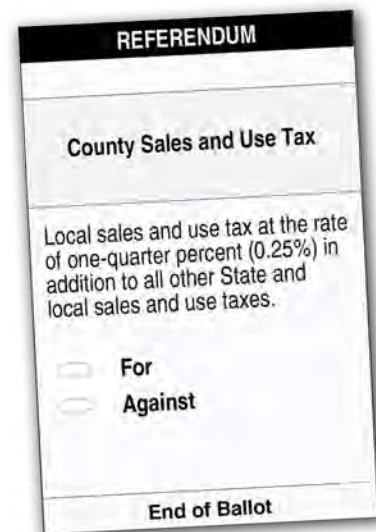
**Q:** How much more revenue would the one-fourth of a penny sales tax generate for Jackson County?

**A:** It would generate approximately \$1.2 million annually.

**Q:** Why can't the N.C. Education Lottery Funds be used for Jackson County Public Schools projects?

**A:** Jackson County receives approximately \$256,000 per year in lottery funds, which are used for debt payments on the Fairview Kindergarten Building.

**Look for this on the June 7 Ballot.**



Smoky Mountain High School

