

A black and white photograph of Griffin Middle School. In the foreground, a sign reads "GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL". Behind it is a covered walkway leading to the school building. A flagpole with an American flag stands to the right. The sky is overcast.

**Fact Sheet**

***For informational purposes only.***

**Half-Cent Sales Tax ...**

**What's at stake  
for Griffin Middle  
School?**

**“Failure to make the needed facility and equipment repairs, technology enhancements, renovations and replacements will threaten the safety of students, teachers and staff and cause further deterioration ... more importantly, a failure to make the needed improvements threatens the quality of education that our children receive.”**

**Dr. Jim Murdaugh, Chair, CIRT**  
**(Capital Improvements Review Team), 2002**

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## The situation ...

Earlier this year, the CIRT (Capital Improvements Review Team) panel conducted a comprehensive examination of the facility needs of every public school in Leon County. The CIRT study determined that there are not nearly enough funds available to support all those needs. In view of major cuts in educational funding, the study found that an additional source of funding is necessary just to maintain school facilities at a "minimally acceptable" level.

The CIRT recommended continuation of the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2002. If extended, the tax is expected to yield an estimated \$17 million a year to support school facility needs.

## About the tax ...

This would not be a new tax, but continuation of the existing half-cent sales tax voters approved in 2002. It is critically needed because, without it, the Leon County public schools will suffer the neglect of needed repairs and renovations ... our students cannot be kept abreast of new, emerging technology ... and our fleet of school buses will have to be left in service beyond their normal useful lives.

*"Because of the age, condition and ongoing wear-and-tear on educational facilities, our county school system cannot maintain adequate facilities for our children without continuing the half-penny."*

Jackie Pons, Superintendent

If approved, the half-penny tax could only be used for maintenance, repair, remodeling, renovation and construction of school buildings and facilities, as well as to help fund the schools' transportation and technology needs.

The estimated yearly impact of extending the half-penny tax would be \$109.40 per household, or \$43.40 per person. Almost one third of all sales tax paid in Leon County is paid by non-residents.

## Why it's critically important ...

Leon County citizens are proud of our world-class public schools. Our residents have made this a priority through their ongoing support of local public schools and their approval of the half-cent sales tax in 2002. They realize that our children are the future.

## Half-Cent Well Spent

At Griffin Middle School between 2002-present we have spent  
**\$2,691,950!**

### Projects Completed:

- PE fields
- New construction
- Upgrade generator
- Re-pipe water system
- Tile & chalkboards
- Replace sub-panel
- Replace carpet
- Repair/replace lockers
- Intercom
- HVAC
- HVAC controls
- Computer workstations
- Computer printers
- LAN/switches/network connections

