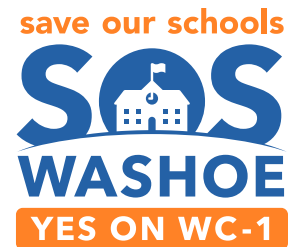


# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## What is WC-1?

WC-1 is a Washoe County ballot question that provides a local solution to a local problem: a half-cent increase in the sales tax to adequately fund the capital needs of Washoe County schools. With this money, we can build 15 new schools over time and make critically needed repairs to our existing older schools including fix leaking roofs and failing ventilation, and remove asbestos. Currently there are schools in Washoe County that are more than 30 years old and are in significant need of repair.

## What is the actual language of the ballot question?

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County be authorized to impose a sales and use tax of 0.54% in the County to fund only capital projects of Washoe County School District for the acquisition, construction, repair and renovation of school facilities?

## What is the difference between operating and capital expenses?

The school district budget has two main categories: the General Operating Fund and the Capital Fund. The General Operating Fund pays for expenses like teacher salaries and school supplies. The Capital Fund pays for school construction, repair, and maintenance. The money generated from WC-1 will go ONLY to the Capital Fund.

## How do we know this will be used only for school construction and nothing else?

The question we'll be voting on in November will designate by law that the funds generated can only be spent on school repair and construction. A volunteer Community Oversight Committee will ensure the money is spent properly and transparently.

## Who decides how the money is spent?

Along with new schools, a newly established volunteer Community Oversight Committee will work with the staff at each school who have the on-the-ground perspective of which projects are most critical. The volunteer oversight committee will vet the recommendations to ensure our dollars are spent appropriately.

## I don't trust the current board.

Due to retirements and open seats, four new board members are guaranteed to be elected this November. That means we will have a new majority on the board, which can breathe new life into the process.

If WC-1 passes we will not only adequately fund our schools' capital needs, we will have a new board, and a new transparent oversight process for construction and repairs.

## Can't we just use vacant commercial spaces and convert them into schools?

Experts have examined this potential solution, and exhausted every option available. Ultimately, bringing these spaces up to the standards required for safe schools would cost as much as, or more than, building new schools.

## Who decides the repair needs of a school?

Facilities experts along with the staff from each school identify the highest needs of each school with safety as their first priority. The Community Oversight Committee will then review proposed expenditures to ensure they are appropriate before they are approved.

## What are double sessions and could they really happen in Washoe County Schools?

Double sessions mean that one school serves two student populations with a morning and evening school schedule. Children would be at bus stops as early as 4:30 a.m. and others would arrive home as late as 7 p.m. Once a middle or high school is 120 percent over capacity, the school will be forced to move to double sessions to accommodate the growing student population. Currently, eight middle and high schools will be moving to this schedule within the next five years with more to follow. Traner, Depoali, Mendive and Shaw middle schools, and McQueen, North Valleys, Spanish Springs and Damonte Ranch high schools will be the first to move to double sessions.

## Didn't the legislature just give a lot of money to education in 2015?

Yes. However, that money is statewide funding for operating expenses — not capital needs. WC-1 addresses an entirely separate need for school construction and repair specifically in Washoe County.

## Why a sales tax?

A half-cent increase in the county sales tax is a shared responsibility for everyone: residents, businesses, and tourists. Necessities like food and medicine are exempt from the new half-cent tax.

## Why don't we just charge school impact fees on developers?

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 387.331) actually prohibits the imposition of a school impact fee on developers in counties with a population more than 55,000. But even if we could levy impact fees, the money generated from the fees would not be sufficient for the needs in Washoe County. Developer fees are one-time fees that do not provide a long-term solution. Using a formula comparable to the one in Lyon County, a new housing tract of 700 homes with a developer fee of \$1,700 would only generate \$1.9 million. It costs about \$20 million to build an elementary school. A developer fee would provide neither adequate nor sustainable funding to build new schools or fix recurring repairs over time.

## Is our overcrowding problem a result of the growth from new companies like Tesla and Switch?

No. We have an infrastructure problem now, which has been with us long before new companies decided to locate here. The money needed for new schools and repair needs will catch us up to speed to address a long-neglected problem.

## I don't have children in schools. Why should I pay for this?

Schools have an impact on your property values, and allowing schools to fall into disrepair or convert to double-sessions will impact the desirability of your neighborhood.

## How do I get involved?

We are looking for volunteers from all walks of life. Passing WC-1 requires a citizen-led effort to knock on doors, call neighbors, and reach out with social media. Sign up to volunteer on our "join us" tab. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SOSWashoe](https://www.facebook.com/SOSWashoe). Follow us on Twitter at [@SOSWashoe](https://twitter.com/SOSWashoe), and visit us at the campaign headquarters — 1 E. Liberty, Ste. 101, Reno, NV 89501.

You can join our Business Advisory Council or Parent-Teacher Advisory Council by emailing [Richard@SOSWashoe.com](mailto:Richard@SOSWashoe.com) or [Brandi@SOSWashoe.com](mailto:Brandi@SOSWashoe.com), respectively.

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