

Vote Yes for ESPLOST

We are products of our local public school system. One of the greatest blessings of our lives has been the incredible support and education we received in the Fayette County public schools. Like most parents in our community, the quality of our public schools is also one of the main reasons our families are raising our children in Fayette County. Our schools have been excellent for decades in large part due to great parent support and hard-working administrators and teachers. However, they have also been great because our schools have had the financial resources to ensure our teachers and students have all of the tools necessary to maximize learning and achievement in the classroom. ESPLOST has been a critical component of our schools' funding and I hope you will join us in supporting continued excellence in our schools by voting yes to renew the ESPLOST in November.

We can't become one of only two school systems out of 180 across Georgia without the ESPLOST tool in our toolbox. Without ESPLOST, our children would be at an educational competitive disadvantage with students in other high-achieving school systems around the state. Without these additional funds, we will need to fund maintenance and technology costs out of our operating budget which pays for our highly-qualified teachers and allows us to maintain lower class sizes.

Not only is ESPLOST important for our current and future students, it is also important for our overall County economy. Failure to renew our ESPLOST puts our county's prospects for economic development and business investment at a competitive disadvantage. Businesses want to locate in communities with excellent schools to benefit the children of their own employees and to help provide the high-quality workforce companies need to succeed in the 21st century. Company site selectors are abundantly aware of the level of commitment local communities have to maintaining the quality of schools.

While the ESPLOST doesn't include funds for operational costs like classroom teacher salaries, it does provide funds for capital improvements for a productive learning environment allowing us to focus operational funds on the classroom. The list of projects before the voters includes basic, critical items such as roofs, flooring, HVAC and additional classrooms to replace trailers. Projects also include technology enhancements in the classrooms that are essential to keep our students competitive in today's workforce environment.

We plan to vote YES to renew the ESPLOST and ask that you do too. Early voting begins on October 16 so vote now to support giving our children the best education possible.

Matt Ramsey
Ronnie Mabra
Ronnie Chance