

Safer schools. Room to learn.

A countywide effort to improve our schools.

NOV

3

TUESDAY
2026

On Tuesday, November 3, Dorchester County voters can invest in our children's future by saying Yes for Schools, building new facilities and upgrading existing ones to make our schools safer, more up to date and less crowded, while also lowering property taxes for everyone.

EARLY VOTING

Oct. 19 – Oct. 31

Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, October 25. Vote at any early voting center in the county. Bring photo ID.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at your precinct. The school question is on the back of the ballot.

Our kids get one shot at school.

The buildings they spend that time in have to be ready.

01 Give our kids room to learn

Dorchester County is growing fast, and classrooms are filling up faster than we can build them. Voting yes adds classroom space, builds new schools and expands the ones we have, so children learn in a real classroom instead of a crowded portable.

02 Make every school safe and sound

Security upgrades at the front door. Roofs that don't leak over a classroom. Air conditioning that works in August. Safe buses for the ride to school. These are basic needs our schools have to meet whether or not this passes.

03 Shoppers from outside the county help pay

School officials estimate about 60 cents of every dollar collected comes from people who live outside Dorchester County: commuters, shoppers and visitors who pay none of our property taxes. Groceries are exempt under state law.

04 Invest in what our county becomes

Modern classrooms, updated technology and career training are what young families look for and what employers ask about first. Building them now protects home values and draws good jobs to Dorchester County.

What a yes vote pays for

✓ New schools where growth is heaviest

✓ Replacement schools in Ridgeville and St. George

✓ Major work at four high schools

✓ Roofs, HVAC, flooring and lighting

✓ Safety, security and school buses

✓ Classrooms, furniture and technology

10%

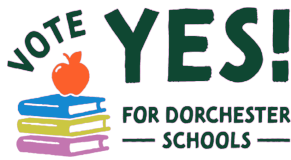
OF EACH DISTRICT'S
SHARE, TO TAX RELIEF

It lowers your property taxes, too.

The ballot question requires each district to spend a tenth of its share paying down school bond debt it already owes. Retiring that debt reduces the debt service millage, which is the school portion of your property tax bill and the only school tax an owner-occupied home pays. Every property owner in the district benefits, whether or not there are children in the house. The other ninety percent goes straight into school projects.

YOUR DISTRICT	SCHOOL DEBT MILLAGE TODAY	ESTIMATED SAVINGS ON A \$400,000 HOME AND A \$20,000 VEHICLE
Dorchester Two	65.0 mills, about \$1,040 a year on that home	\$81 to \$112 a year
Dorchester Four	51.0 mills, about \$816 a year on that home	\$88 to \$127 a year

Estimates only, using 2025 millage rates published by the South Carolina Association of Counties and the districts' projected share of the tax. Owner-occupied homes are assessed at 4 percent, vehicles at 6 percent. Figures pending confirmation by the Dorchester County Auditor.



The question on your ballot.

Referendum questions are printed after the candidate races, often on the back of the ballot. Turn it over and vote YES.

EDUCATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SALES AND USE TAX ACT REFERENDUM FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY

Must a special one percent sales and use tax be imposed in Dorchester County for not more than fifteen (15) calendar years with the revenue of the tax, as allocated below, used to pay, directly or indirectly, the cost of the following education capital improvement projects in Dorchester County

Allocation between school districts

- 85% to Dorchester School District Two; and
- 15% to Dorchester School District Four

Use of each district's allocation

- 10% used to provide property tax relief by reducing the existing debt service millage levy for that district's existing general obligation bond debt; and
- 90% to pay, directly or indirectly, the costs of that district's education capital improvement projects listed below

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** The project lists below appear on the ballot as part of the question.

The projects on the ballot.

The specific work at the specific schools our kids walk into every morning.

Dorchester School District Two

Summerville · Ladson · North Charleston

- **New school construction** in the southern and northwestern parts of the district, near Highway 61 and Deleamar Highway (SC-165)
- **Summerville High School**, academics, fine arts, athletics, CTE
- **Fort Dorchester High School**, academics, fine arts, athletics, CTE
- **Ashley Ridge High School**, renovation and expansion, academics, fine arts, athletics, CTE
- **Alston Middle School**, renovate and equip
- **DuBose Middle School**, renovate, equip and expand
- **Gregg Middle School**, renovate and equip
- **Roof repair and replacement** at multiple schools
- **HVAC, equipment and furniture** at multiple schools
- **School buses**, special education, general education and activity buses
- **Playgrounds** at multiple schools
- **Flooring and lighting** at multiple schools
- **Capital maintenance and technology** replacement and upgrades

Dorchester School District Four

St. George · Ridgeville · Harleyville

- **New Ridgeville school**, a combined elementary and middle school replacing the existing school
- **New St. George elementary school** replacing the existing school
- **Woodland High School**, new additions and facility upgrades for instructional programs
- **Woodland High School athletics**, a new fieldhouse and facility upgrades
- **Clay Hill Elementary**, portables to absorb growth during construction, classrooms modified for students ages three to six
- **Harleyville Elementary**, offices converted into classrooms, facility upgrades
- **District office**, classrooms modified for career and technical programming

100% stays in Dorchester County, dedicated to the ballot projects

Our neighbors already do this

Charleston	9%	Penny school tax since 2010
Berkeley	9%	Since 2023; district cut debt millage 55 to 50 mills
Dorchester	8%	If this passes, still below both neighbors

Early voting Oct. 19 to Oct. 31 · **Election Day** Tuesday, Nov. 3

Vote YES for Schools