

**MADISON COUNTY SALES TAX INCREASE FOR EDUCATION  
POSITION STATEMENT  
April 2008**

On June 3rd, voters in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County will be asked to approve an additional half-cent sales tax for use in building, renovating and maintaining public schools.

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, the Huntsville Committee of 100 and The Schools Foundation endorse the half-cent sales tax because we believe it is the best option to address the urgent capital needs of our three school systems. We cannot continue to send many of our children to school in portables, overcrowded classrooms and older buildings in dire need of repair. With the expected growth during the next few years, this problem will only get worse and it will negatively impact the quality of life and property values of every citizen in our community.

Estimates show the sales tax increase would cost Madison County residents an additional \$131 per household annually\*. That is a small price to pay for safe schools and a positive learning environment for our children.

We plan to continue working with our three school systems to address ways to maximize existing resources and provide curriculum enhancements to prepare our children for the jobs of the future. We are eager to participate in frank dialogue with people throughout our community on what we expect and are getting from public education. But we need to solve the school facility crisis first.

We urge our fellow citizens to vote in favor of the additional half-cent sales tax increase for our schools on June 3.

\* Estimate based on average 2006 consumer spending data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.