

THE GREENSBORO PATRIOT.

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Local Taxation for Public Schools in Guilford County.

In Accordance With a Law Enacted by the Legislature of 1896-97 an Election Has Been Ordered in Every Township in Guilford County Upon the Question of Local Taxation for Public Schools, and Every Citizen in the Township Will be Called Upon to Vote on Tuesday, August 10th, "For Schools" or "Against Schools."

The tables below have been carefully prepared from the official records of this county and contain information necessary for intelligent voting upon this question. We urge every citizen of the county to examine carefully these tables and the brief comments thereon. Gilmer, Morehead and High Point townships are not included in these tables because they are comprehended chiefly by the city of Greensboro and the town of High Point that have already established systems of graded schools by local taxation and only those portions of these townships not included in the corporate limits of these cities will vote upon this question.

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of taxpayers that pay poll tax only.	No. the assessed value of whose real and personal property is less than \$500.	No. the assessed value of whose real and personal property is from \$500 to \$1,000.	No. the assessed value of whose real and personal property is from \$1,000 to \$5,000.	No. the assessed value of whose real and personal property is \$5,000 and above.
Centre Grove.	57	107	37	36	1
Clay.	50	170	49	59	
Deep River.	23	192	47	44	
Fentress.	31	171	57	36	1
Friendship.	68	262	57	62	3
Greene.	24	213	62	43	
Jameson.	50	229	70	56	6
Jefferson.	65	173	58	56	3
Madison.	37	138	30	23	
Monroe.	55	132	35	22	
Oak Ridge.	43	172	30	36	
Rock Creek.	51	208	40	54	3
Summersfield.	49	168	35	29	1
Summer.	58	216	41	37	
Washington.	44	148	48	33	1
	694	2729	696	616	26

The smallest special tax for schools allowed by the Local Taxation Act of 1897 is ten cents on every hundred dollars valuation of property and thirty cents on every poll. Assuming that the above townships of Guilford county should by vote levy this special tax, the following is apparent from table No. 1: A simple calculation will show that seventy-two per cent, or nearly three fourths of the people in these townships would pay less than fifty cents more property tax for schools than they now pay, and more than half of the remaining fourth would pay less than one dollar more property tax than they now pay. About seven-eighths of the taxpayers of these townships then would have their taxes for schools increased by the special tax less than \$1.30.

Only about one-eighth would have their taxes increased more than \$1.30.

TOWNSHIPS.	Polls.	Aggregate value of real and personal property.	Amount from regular appropriation to public schools.	Amount of increase from special tax of ten cents on \$100 valuation and thirty cents on poll.	Additional amount that would be received from state treasury and thirty by special act of 1897.	Total for school purposes.
Centre Grove.	57	\$129,224	\$355	\$614	\$174 06	\$962 12
Clay.	176	201,684	463	823	252 81	1,028 62
Deep River.	149	163,965	367	643	196 43	870 96
Fentress.	137	145,686	327	593	195 01	823 02
Friendship.	135	243,441	540	987	272 18	1,389 26
Greene.	165	138,510	2,059	370 06	253 37	1,383 64
Jameson.	166	173,708	382	695	228 97	1,306 96
Jefferson.	141	179,720	1,827	334	236 44	1,317 88
Madison.	96	114,732	3,468	118,200	126 51	720 02
Monroe.	101	114,732	3,468	118,200	126 51	720 02
Oak Ridge.	115	129,139	1,806	329 98	124 42	885 20
Rock Creek.	130	129,139	1,806	329 98	124 42	885 20
Summersfield.	112	134,201	5,100	139,301	184 00	552 06
Summer.	134	141,063	1,411	261 88	187 89	1,204 78
Washington.	139	120,272	86	152 52	165 06	882 12
			9800	3194 23	3194 23	

This table shows for each township the number of polls, the aggregate value of real and personal property, the entire amount of money now received by all the schools in each township from the regular appropriation to public schools, the additional amounts that these schools would receive from a special tax of ten cents on \$100 valuation of property and thirty cents on poll, the additional amount that would be received from the State treasury by the special act of 1897 for the encouragement of local taxation, and the total amount available for these schools from all sources in case such special tax should be levied. It will be seen that for every dollar of additional tax that the township votes upon itself another dollar will be given by the State.

Every dollar of tax levied under the Local Taxation Act in any of these townships means two dollars for the public schools. On account of its large number of small townships, Guilford is in a position to get the most possible out of this appropriation of the State to stimulate local taxation. A tax of ten cents on the \$100 and thirty cents on the poll voted by the township now would raise as much for its public schools as a tax of double that amount would raise after the offer of the State shall have expired or shall have been withdrawn. Can the people of these townships afford not to take advantage of this unusual opportunity?

A simple calculation based upon the last four columns of this table will show that the public school fund in these townships would be increased about sixty-five per cent, by levying the lowest rate of taxation under the new law. In some of these townships the public school fund would be nearly doubled, or increased nearly one hundred per cent.

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of children of school age.	Number of public schools now.	Number of schools under new law, with average of not less than 65 children.	Average amount to each school from regular appropriation to public schools.	Amount to each school from special tax of ten cents on \$100 valuation of property and thirty cents on poll levied.	Amount of increase to each school in \$100 valuation of property under new law.
Centre Grove.	198	378	5	\$122 80	\$192 42	\$ 70 62
Clay.	282	316	6	104 60	205 72	101 12
Deep River.	238	342	4	121 75	219 56	98 21
Fentress.	229	300	4	98 60	176 60	88 00
Friendship.	383	570	7	109 62	252 04	90 71
Greene.	515	567	7	117 95	174 95	62 35
Jameson.	424	451	7	99 28	193 85	94 57
Jefferson.	401	510	8	120 71	188 27	68 46
Madison.	182	288	4	115 75	180 00	64 25
Monroe.	220	379	4	96 16	154 39	58 11
Oak Ridge.	240	269	4	107 42	187 13	79 71
Rock Creek.	236	338	4	146 00	238 00	92 00
Summersfield.	140	532	3	103 62	150 29	47 27
Summer.	269	313	6	110 40	176 42	66 02
Washington.	4701	1647	81	29	66	20 86

From this table it will be observed that, if the law forbidding the establishment in any school district of a greater number of schools for either race than will give each school an average of fewer than sixty-five pupils is enforced, the number of white schools in these townships will be reduced from 81 to 66 and the number of colored schools from 29 to 20. There would be but a small reduction in the number of schools in any single township. In some townships the number would not be changed and in a few it would be actually increased.

It will also be observed that the fund available to each of these schools, should the special tax be voted, would be increased in amounts varying from \$17 to \$101. The increase in the fund available to each of these schools would vary from fifty to about one hundred per cent.

At \$27.83, the average monthly salary now paid white teachers in Guilford county, and \$24.51, the average monthly salary now paid colored teachers, this of course would mean lengthening the term of each white school from seven to fourteen weeks and the term of each colored school from eight to sixteen weeks. Longer terms and more money would also mean corresponding increase in the efficiency of the teachers and the schools. The chief cause of poor schools is poor teachers, the chief causes of poor teachers are short terms and poor pay. An examination of the lists of public school teachers of this county will show that there is an almost entirely new set of teachers every few years. On account of short terms and low salary, the pay is so inadequate that most of the brightest and most promising teachers seek more lucrative employment about the time they are beginning to be fitted by experience for the best teaching. There are, of course, some noble self-sacrificing exceptions, but this is the general rule.

To sum up then, should the people of the townships mentioned above vote upon themselves a small tax of ten cents on \$100 valuation of property and thirty cents on the poll for public schools, about three fourths of them would pay less than eighty cents and seven-eighths less than \$1.30, only about one eighth more than \$1.30. For every dollar of tax thus paid their public schools would receive two dollars. The public school fund available to each public school would be increased in amounts varying from \$17 to \$101. The terms of the white schools would be lengthened from 7 to 14 weeks each, the terms of the colored schools from 8 to 16 weeks each, giving an entire school term to each white school of from 22 to 29 weeks, and to each colored school of from 23 to 31 weeks. By a pro rata distribution according to the number of children, the white schools would receive seventy-four per cent of the proceeds of the increased tax for schools and the colored schools twenty-six per cent. The schools would be greatly increased in proficiency. The standard of teaching would be greatly elevated. Over three thousand dollars would be brought into these townships from the state treasury and put into circulation among the people through the public schools. In other words every cent of local tax for schools voted by the township would be paid back to the township by the state.

With these incontrovertible facts staring them in the face what is the sensible, practical, business like course for the voters in these townships to pursue on the tenth day of August next?

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Containing within her borders The State Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro Female College, Guilford College, Oak Ridge Institute, Whitsett Institute and other excellent high schools for the white race, the Agricultural and Mechanical College and Bennett Seminary for the colored race, the only county in North Carolina with two towns that have excellent systems of public schools supported by local taxation, Guilford may modestly claim to be the banner educational county of the State and should feel a just pride in preserving this proud educational pre-eminence by taking the lead now in local taxation for better public schools in her rural districts and thus making herself a benefactor, an inspiration, and a landable example for emulation to her sister counties.

Every citizen of these townships on the tenth of August next will stand face to face with one of the most important questions that ever confronted a free people, a question of the most transcendent importance to the present and future of Guilford county that ever has been or ever will be presented to the people of this county. Laying aside all political, racial and personal prejudices, our people should meet this question with the courage of lovers of their fellowmen, their country and their country.

A vote "For Schools" is a vote for intelligent citizenship and the safety and the happiness that lie therein. A vote "Against Schools" is a vote for ignorant citizenship and the danger and the unhappiness that lie therein.

Wise Men Know it is folly to build on a poor foundation. Relief obtained by degrading symptoms is short. Hoods Saraparilla cures and gives lasting health.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness. All druggists. 25c.

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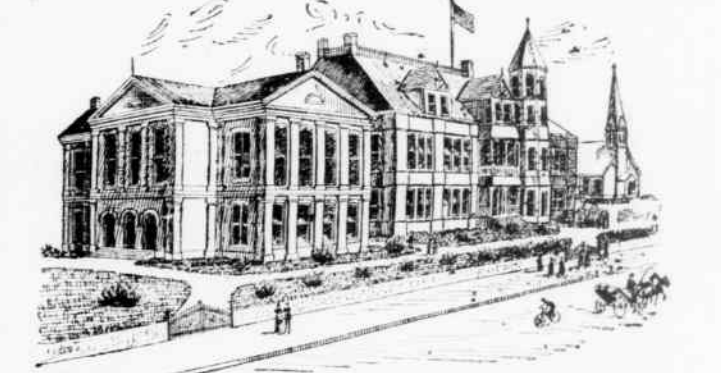
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