

Additional Comments

- This is a tough decision for everyone. I truly hope that there are lots of ideas for EVERY possible avenue to achieve success all the way around! Think everything through thoroughly before deciding! Good luck!!
- Our schools and communities across the state and country are facing very serious budget deficits and as parents and community members it falls on us to do what is best for our future generations and those generations are at risk of losing much needed educational resources. I fully support a tax increase that solely benefits our schools
- The school needs to do better at budgeting like the rest of us do.
- Much of this depends on when and if the state provides additional funding.....If the state leaves it the same, or a minimal boost, the schools need some help, before everything falls apart. Students need education, the community should support education, and the teachers need to feel that they aren't doing this job alone. The kids are our future and we should see that they and the staff are in a safe environment and that the school(s) aren't falling down around them.If the state won't fund , and the governor seems to not care about public education, then the city of Craig should step up and fully fund their part of the education bill....and upping the sales tax will be a good way to bring this about. It is much better than upping our real estate taxes and it spreads the cost among all our citizens and especially among those people who use our resources during the summer and then leave the island.
- This is a hard one. I have friends and family that work for the CCSD. With that said, here is the reality. We are paying 5.40 per gallon for gas at Blackbear (as of this morning), \$50 for a 5lb block of cheese and Shaan Seet just raised their rent by over 10%. Rentals are sky-high and unaffordable. Our work force cannot afford to live here, we are losing workers faster than we can replace them. (It was a problem before Covid and has only exacerbated since) Families are having to make cuts just to live here and work for you, so maybe everyone should have to make cuts as well? Also, how has the CCSD deficit doubled? If they had balanced budgets before Covid, how is it that even after cutting staff/positions their deficit has doubled? Under those balanced budgets, they had more staff/faculty without extra taxes/covid money. Inflation (or whatever you want to call whats happening in SE Alaska) does not account for that. Until CCSD can explain this, I will be advising anyone I know to vote for no increase.
- St Nick should be paying property tax. Bed tax, fish box tax. Other solutions should be included in this besides just increase to the sales tax.

- Hold the administrators accountable for the funds they receive. Your survey didn't give an option for no tax increase! Families must live within a budget and so must those that receive our tax dollars. You can't tax and spend your way out of financial irresponsibility. ALL TAXATION IS THEFT
- As a Craig resident/property owner, and tax payer, It's time to consider consolidation of the four school districts on the island. It's unfair that Craig property owners are on the hook for the funding of the Craig School when there are children from across the island attending the school in
- Craig. Increase tax you ask? Absolutely not. No tax increase should have been an option on question #4."
- I think the .5 is confusing
- The seasonal tax rate would be great to have to get some of the tourists and out of state fisherman to help contribute.
- Need to figure something else out. Cost of living in Craig is high enough with the grocery store. And now you want to raise the taxes.
- If the rate does change seasonally. I would recommend making sure the utility company knows so they can update power and telephone bills when the changes happen for summer and winter.
- The school district and city need to do better on budget so we are not in this situation again and plan for the future better..
- I would like to be assured that this tax increase would only benefit CCSD and not any other City related projects.
- 6-7% sales taxes are common most places year-round. I do believe in capitalizing on the increase in population during the summer. I don't know that I support a tax increase on groceries as that could hurt the community.
- Funding our schools should be a priority
- Why should Craig residents pay a seasonal tax?
- City needs to suspend the 4% fuel tax and put it back to 5% to help raise more revenue..
- Thank you for the clear explanation of the current situation, how it came to be, and the potential ramifications if a tax is not passed.
- A BSA increase did pass the state legislature as well as additionally monies for transportation, READS Act, and an increase for correspondence students. Because of these increases Craig School District's needs are less than predicted. School district needs to make some cuts in staffing and tighten up their expenses if our community is

going to pay more sales tax. Residents should be presented with information about what cuts the school district has made in any proposal to increase sales tax.

- Either STOP bussing kids from the entire island to Craig, or get money from elsewhere other than Craig residents. The Craig school wasn't intended to serve the entire island. Or, if it is, then tax everyone in every community. There's kids from every community going to the Craig School!
- This survey is misleading. How about a no tax option. No sales tax, no property tax, keep your greedy hands off my money option?
- Stay with the increased sales tax and not property taxes. I live on Pt St Nick so city property owners would have to carry more of the burden which isn't okay.
- Is there a bus fee for the children that don't live in Craig?
- I do not believe that the school has really cut back on their expenses. I mean they cut "vacant" positions - so those were jobs that were not being paid... where did that money go? They may have to cut extracurricular travel - is that really what has created this deficit? The City has been more than generous with their contributions to the school district and to its students when they have requested extra funds. The poor financial planning of the school should not become a burden to the Craig residents. If the city does raise sales tax, what guarantee do we have that the school district will use that money any wiser? I believe that they will just continue to ask for more and more money without truly making needed changes to their spending. If they want to save money, why not combine the middle school with the high school (they have an entire second floor that is not being used)? Why was there talk about giving 4% raises to the teachers for the next 3 years? Doesn't the City donate swimming pool hours and handle the heating with the wood boiler system? If there is any increase in the school funding by the city, fund them at the \$800,000 which is the maximum contribution for the city. I am all for supporting the schools, but I feel that an increase in sales tax is just the easy way for the school district to keep spending money foolishly at the cost of the hard working residents of Craig. Everything is more expensive .. not just for the schools but for the rest of us as well. We have all had to make choices about when and how to spend the money we have responsibly. If it is presented in October to raise tax to meet the 800,000 maximum - I will vote yes. If it is to fund them the full 1.3 million, I will vote no.
- Tell the governor to get off his shady ass and fund the schools!
- Annex St. Nicholas to increase property tax. St. Nick kids go to the Craig School. Your question is misleading too. The prefer to leave it flat or seasonal is misleading. You will say everyone says summer rate increase ok. But you don't give us the option not to answer like on last question!

- Why are you and the school in this situation? Both are run by idiots.
- I think it would be worth considering an additional tax on alcohol, Marijuana and possibly tobacco that is intended for schools.
- I think the 8.5% summer and 6% winter is totally amazing! Sick of all these summer "residents" not having to contribute
- I want proof that it's going to the school
- The City of Craig has no business putting the burden of taxes on only the City residents whereas the rest of the Island gets off scott free and gets to utilize the schools and services. No one will be able to afford to live here anymore and there will be a mass exodus. Property taxes have already went up \$17,000 in just 3 years. This is outrageous!!
- We need a gas station in Craig. Can the school benefit from an alcohol or marijuana tax?
- The city holds a reserve fund for the school at Alaska Permanent Capital Management. Consider paying CCSD 4% of the market value of the School Reserve Fund each year.
- "Although I am a senior, I think the exemption for seniors (as well as reduced garbage rates) should be eliminated, or at least establish a means test for them.
- As for the school's finances, it is only going to get worse as enrollment shrinks. I suspect the same is true in Klawock. It is time to put aside our pride and start a discussion about combining into one district with one superintendent, one business office, one high school, one middle school, and maybe two elementary schools."
- Unfortunately, all households and businesses have equally been hit hard inflation and rising energy costs and further taxing them necessities to fund the school district isn't right. Low to middle income earners would be disproportionately affected by an increase in sales tax.
- Please provide the top two options on the actual ballot.
- The school district receives the same BSA allocation as does Klawock and many other REAA school districts in the state. Are all operating fine. This is a management problem that should not fall as a burden to tax payers. There are tough decisions to be made, like Juneau, possibly consolidate schools.
- It's important to try and manage the budget so that it can balance. There are a lot of people who attend Craig Schools whom do not live within the city limits and who need to pay their fair share. It's very inequitable for the people who live in city limits to bear the burden of paying expenses when numerous families reap those benefits but do not pay for them.

- When was the last time the City sales tax was raised? The answer to this question may impact some resident's opinion on whether or not it should be raised now. Also, the question should be asked if the respondent is a real property owner in the City of Craig, i.e., subject to property taxes.
- Life costs are increasing for all of us. I have more costs for regular living, my income has not risen at the same rate as groceries, gas, utilities, etc. I have to make this work as an individual household, just as all of my neighbors in Craig. We do not get to submit a paper to our employers stating: pay us more because we have a deficit in our home. Do not raise my property taxes. Just make what you have work. Like we have to at our level.
- Thank you!
- School Administration needs to do better with their budgeting and not fully rely on the City of Craig to fix all their issues. As a taxpayer, I feel the city should use its money to better the community as a whole, equally and not just the school.
- Right now it's hard enough to make ends meet at home, we do not need any more taxes. While I understand the school needs money too, but it's a bit much to ask for us to pay for their problems. If I go over my budget my bills still need to be paid. I don't get help from anyone. But you want my hard earned money to go to help them. I take no assistance, I work I have no kids why do I need to give over more money?
- If we can get rid of Bidenomics in November maybe we won't have to raise taxes at all
- I can barely pay the bills as it is. However I am also a district employee and need to keep a job.
- Supporting education is critical to our current and future wellbeing
- The CSSD should be living within their own budget like the rest of us have to do. Why is it the citizens that don't even have children attending this School's responsibility to keep filling in the fiduciary deficit every single year with taxes? Doesn't anyone realize this will be a never ending rise in taxes until this is accomplished? With the raised costs of fuel, utilities, travel, property taxes, etc., no one will be able to afford to live on this island and then who will you tax?
- You state that all funding sources are struggling.
- Do you not think that your local resident family's are also struggling?
- Their taxes pay for all of your funding sources.
- The internet tax that I pay to the City of Craig, every time that I make a purchase online is criminal and will increase with your planned tax increase as well.

- On top of that, a loaf of bread is now \$10. The city collects twice the tax on a loaf of bread than they did just a few years when bread was \$5. Fact!
- Where is the money really going?
- If you dismantled the school staff to a skeleton crew and did not solve the schools financial problems then WHAT HAPPENED?
- Why is the school suddenly so hard to fund?
- We know that the school is very old and has not been invested in for generations of students.
- Where is the money?
- We the people would prefer that you fix the problems, plug the leaks in your budget.
- Maby shut down the swimming pool. We all know that it is a money pit.
- I don't think that the City sales tax applies to Quest Cards.
- Perhaps you should work on that. Everyone gets free, tax free food while those of us that work for a living have to pay for their food, and the increased tax burdens due to other people's food not being taxed.
- Inflation is intentional, the hard times that we are living in are 100% funded by a corrupt Federal Government.
- Suck it up, maby send your request for funds uphill to the crooks in Washington DC.
- They print money all day for free.
- This is a game and we the people are sick of paying a corrupt system to ruin our lives and our children's futures.
- At this point the dollar is worthless and even your middle class resident is struggling to maintain the financial obligations that they already have."
- Annex Port St Nicholas!! Problem solved
- Summer 8% / Winter 6%
- I would like to see something done that would require the residents living and doing business within the St Nicholas area who utilize our city facilities and schools taxed at the same rates as home owners and businesses that lay with the city limits.
- The city can get a municipal loan or bond to fund this at 2 or 3%. Withhold part of the school money, each year until that loan is repaid in full. If we use city money's currently in interest bearing accounts, that are at 4 to 6% interest, we lose money. This is a result of bad management and bookkeeping
- I believe the City sales tax should not be raised at all. The school gets plenty of funding!
- Try to get Jon Bolling back, the new guy is overpaid and ineffective

- The school district enrollment is down enough to consolidate schools . It is happening all over the state. This is a tough decision but needs to happen. REAA 's of the state manage strictly on state funding , no tax base at all. Raising tax's on everyone is not the answer. I feel the school district has not really made a TOUGH decision yet.
- Bad timing for additional taxes. Why does Port Saint Nick get to use everything of our town and schools and not pay property tax. Make them pay their fair share and we wouldn't have to raise everyone's taxes.
- All of you sons of bitches who vote for Dunleavy and his republican cronies are to blame for the lack of school funding
- As a concerned year round island resident, prices on goods sold in Craig are already expensive enough, this added burden may seem small, but has a larger effect out side of just Craig alone. Craig is a major hub for people from outlying towns such as Coffman cove, whale pass and other community's already spend \$40 to \$60 just to drive to Craig and get a part from Tyler rental or buy groceries at Thompson house and so on, it's fine for one to pay their share but this seems to be a Craig issue and it would be nice for Craig to show ways they are cutting funding and helping to lower their annual school budget so it's not as big of an impact for everyone.
- Has Craig looked at cutting budgets elsewhere to save money and funnel those funds to the school for short term? It's already expensive enough to live on POW, I think there is other ways and avenues that need to be looked and and maybe the answer is a combination of things, at the end of the day raising taxes should be the last resort.
- Thanks for your time and hope all works out for the best of everyone island wide!"
- I dont support any increase period!!!! I already do not own my property because i have to pay yearly property taxes. If i don't pay my taxes the city takes my property so i dont own it. I dont have kids. I dont want to pay more for something i dont use and never will. Maybe start making parents pay more on their taxes instead of less because they actually have kids in school and it costs alot of money. But no. They get tax breaks and i dont. Does not make sense to me. Start cutting everything like everyone else in the world. Do less and spend less like the rest of us . Im paying enough already. Time to take parents perm fund to pay for their kids education if they want to use the public schools. Parents need to pay more not the community.
- No
- Just don't raise the property tax..to many people live outside city limits but gain the benefits that us property owners end having to pay for . Not right. Lobby the state and government to stop the price gouging . Can't hardly afford grub as it is !! I will be shopping else where on the island .
- I'm for No tax increase of any kind !! Fix our streets!!"

- Any increase wouldn't be as bad as it sounds, since there is already a 5% tax. It is important to support our schools
- I've seen previous budget from the school district and it was terrible. More money for supervisors and not for needed programs. I have no confidence in their ability to properly use the extra funds.
- "I don't have children or family in school. A tax increase has no benefits to me.
- Also the school is already over funded and buses students from other towns that DO NOT pay city taxes in general.
- I hope that taxes don't increase. If anything cut police spending as it is already the biggest city expense. Give the police money to the schools."
- Work more with island schools to conserve costs
- Why not simply go the route of Cordova and implement a city Raw fish tax. Which would primarily only be paid by the tourists, and seasonal workers. Simply tax all fish sold within city limits .5%, millions of pounds of fish come into Craig a year. Also, raise your harbor fees to be comparable to that of the lower 48, atleast for vessels over 20ft.
- No
- I am a 40 yr. citizen of Craig and have listened to community members talking about city issues lately. So I read the minutes of your council meetings and found that the city council and mayor are inexperienced and/or refusing to listen to people's advice who have experienced these situations before. The council seems to be thinking tribally instead of city. Taxes are going to remain an issue in the future if you continue to sell city land especially if you are selling to people who don't pay city taxes or lease amounts. If people aren't going to contribute to city welfare, then selling our city land is pointless. You may get money up front, but you need money in perpetuity. I thought the city started on a plan for the Ward Cove area already, then all of a sudden this land sale is being pushed through. I hear rumors that you even wanted to not have a second public comment round? Are you following city protocol and following bylaws? You need to follow the process just like everyone else has to. It seems to me that the council and mayor are not thinking of the benefits the city land offers for the future. Once you sell the land, you can't get it back. If you are worried about the lack of housing, then develop land leases for building or at least sell the land that will generate some kind of revenue for the city as in property taxes. Years down the road, your decision will impact the city infrastructure. The city has bills to pay (for education) and salaries on the line. If you continue to sell city land, then our taxes will continue to go higher. You have already started that process. I also hear that the council bad mouths city workers. Well, what goes around comes around!

It's not professional or ethically kind to treat people disrespectfully. I voted for a council that I thought I could trust, but it turns out that you are not trustworthy, do not have the city's future in mind, and have lost my vote. It would be great if you were more transparent and shared this survey publicly with comments. The community is watching.

- The schools should be talking to the Governor about solutions to this mess he created! Perhaps the school cuts down on busing or shares the responsibilities across schools so as to not have multiple districts going to the same locations (Hollis, Pot St Nicholas Rd, etc.). Parents may need to fundraise more for sports.... Again, too bad our Governor isn't supporting education in this state.
- I think if the coc is going to raise taxes for the residents to support the school(which I have no problem with) the school may need to tak measures for kids that are outside the city limits and in other communities. Unfortunately/fortunately the CRAIG school has many craig resident students but a lot of non craig resident students and that should ve looked at
- Na
- If the tax increase is for education. You should tax the year-round residence, not just a seasonal residence. Therefore, a seasonal tax hike does not make sense to me.
- The Craig and Klawock school districts need to be combined to save money.
- "I do not want a sales tax increase. I think we try a go fund me site. Money would go directly to the issue at hand. It's a tax write off.
- Nice new 2 police cars. and since the new Harbor is happening soon there should be a little interest in the bank????"
- Live within your means.
- The school may have to make more cuts. I would rather see increased sales tax than increased property taxes that already increased substantially this year. The seasonal sales tax would benefit locals who are often not working in the winter. Summer could be defined to include October which could include PFD month.
- I would do most of my shopping in Klawock instead of Craig