

What's on the ballot in November? Plenty!

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Voters in Forsyth County are expected to be asked to approve several bond areas, a county sales tax and numerous state constitution amendments during the General Election in Nov. 6.



Six proposed state constitution amendments will be on the ballot.

WUNC-FM 91.5 reports that voters will be asked to vote for or against the following:

***Right to Hunt, Fish, and Harvest Wildlife:** Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.

***Rights of Victims of Crime:** Constitutional amendment to strengthen protections for victims of crime, to establish certain absolute basic rights for victims and to ensure the enforcement of these rights.

***Bipartisan State Board of Ethics and Elections Enforcement:** Constitutional amendment to establish a bipartisan Board of Ethics and

Elections to administer ethics and election laws, to clarify the appointment authority of the Legislative and the Judicial Branches, and to prohibit legislators from serving on boards and commissions exercising executive or judicial authority.

***Selection for Judicial Vacancies:** Constitutional amendment to implement a nonpartisan merit-based system that relies on professional qualifications instead of political influence when nominating justices and judges to be selected to fill vacancies that occur between judicial elections.

***Cap On Income Tax Rate:** Constitutional amendment to reduce the income tax rate in North Carolina to a maximum allowable rate of seven percent (7%).

***Voter ID:** Constitutional amendment to require voters to provide photo identification before voting in person.

Go to <http://wunc.org/post/you-get-vote-6-amendments-nc-constitution-here-they-are#stream/0> to find links to the full acts passed by the General Assembly.

The City of Winston-Salem has proposed a bond referendum with \$122 mil-

lion worth of projects, in five categories. Each category will be listed separately on the ballot.

On Aug. 6, the council is scheduled to hold a public hearing before voting on the bonds, authorizing them to appear on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

The Chronicle is reporting that the bond areas are:

*** \$43.7 million for streets and sidewalks.**

***\$31 million for parks and recreation.**

***\$21.1 million for public safety facilities.**

***\$14.5 million for economic development.**

***\$11.7 million for housing.**

The amount for each bond is set, but individual projects in each bond can still be changed. If voters approve all the bonds, city

property taxes may increase up to 4 cents per \$100 of property value.

For a list of the proposed projects for the bonds, go to <http://www.cityofws.org/2018bonds>.

The Chronicle is reporting that Forsyth County commissioners unanimously passed a \$426.3 million budget with no property tax increase with plans to put a quarter-cent county sales tax on the ballot in November. The

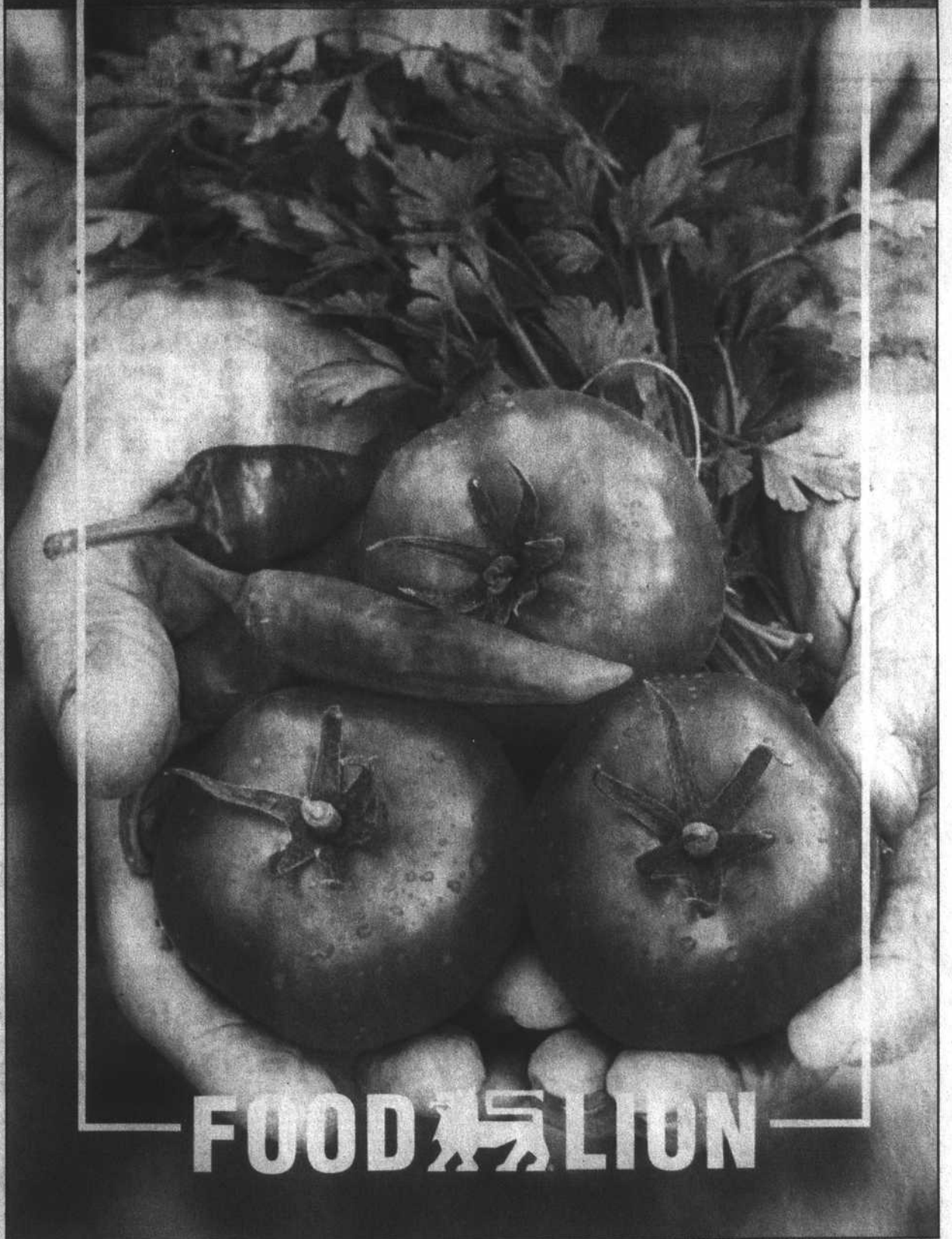
money raised by the tax would go to pay for the debt from building the new courthouse. The new tax would apply to purchases in Forsyth County, except gas and groceries.

If voters do not pass the sales tax, then county property tax would need to go up 3.1 cent in the next budget to pay for courthouse debt. County property tax is currently 72.35 cents per \$100 of property value.



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FOOD AS ART

3 for-profit college campuses in N.C. expected to close

DURHAM (AP) — For-profit colleges are expected to shut down three campuses in North Carolina cities before the end of the year.

Email obtained by The News & Observer of Raleigh show that Dream Center Education Holdings last week notified University of North Carolina officials the company will close the locations that enroll 3,000 students. The newspaper reports that the company says it will close the Art Institutes in Durham and Charlotte and South University in High Point.

The University of North Carolina system was notified last week that it has decided to close the three campuses, a move that will affect more than 3,000 students, according to internal email communications among UNC system staff who handle licensure issues for universities that operate in North Carolina.

All three will cease enrolling students for the upcoming term, the letter said.

The Art Institute campuses in Durham and Charlotte are among more than 30 campuses across the country run by Dream Center. Art Institutes offer classes in animation, design, film and audio production and fashion, as well as a culinary school. The Durham campus takes up several floors in the American Tobacco Campus in downtown Durham and enrolls about 70 students.

A spokeswoman for Dream Center Educational Holdings said that she could not confirm the closures in response to a question about the UNC communication.

State law gives the UNC board of governors the authority to issue licenses to nonpublic and out-of-state institutions that operate degree programs in North Carolina.

Currently-enrolled students would have certain rights under both state and federal law, North Carolina Justice Department spokeswoman Nazneed Ahmed said. Those rights would depend on each student's circumstances, but could potentially include a plan allowing students to finish their academic programs, forgiveness of federal loans or recovery of lost tuition under a bond the school posts with the state, Ahmed said.

"Federal law provides specific direction about how students are to be notified of their rights if and when their school closes," Ahmed said.

Dream Center Education Holdings acquired the three North Carolina schools earlier this year from Pittsburgh-based Education Management Corp., a for-profit school operator. Following the sale, the schools were supposed to transfer their status as for-profit institutions to non-profit. That transfer hasn't been approved by the U.S. Education Department, the agency said Friday.

That limits the schools' ability to receive federal student loan money. The schools are only eligible to participate in a federal student aid program on a month-to-month basis, an Education Department statement said.

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