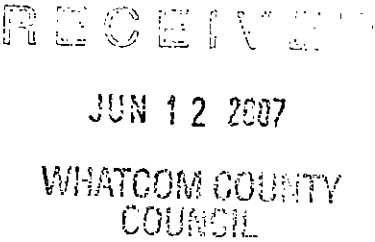


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2007-278

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator: Exec				6/19/07	Introduction
Division Head:				7/10/07	Hearing
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:	KNE	6/12/07			
Purchasing/Budget:	BB	6/12/07			
Executive:	PK	6-12-07			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Amending Whatcom County Code Title 3 to Provide for Increasing Local Option for Retaining Sales and Use Tax.

ATTACHMENTS:
Proposed Resolution
Memo

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO	Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

The proposed ordinance increases the sales tax retained under the provisions of RCW 82.14.370 from .08% to .09%, beginning August 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION:	COUNCIL ACTION: 6/19/2007: Introduced 7/10/2007: Council Adopted 7-0 Ord. 2007-035
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Related County Contract #:	Related File Numbers:	Ordinance or Resolution Number: Ord. 2007-035
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Please Note: *Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.*

SPONSORED BY: Consent

PROPOSED BY: Executive

INTRODUCTION DATE: 6/19/2007

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-035

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 3 TO PROVIDE FOR
INCREASING LOCAL OPTION FOR RETAINING SALES AND USE TAX**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has found that while Washington's economy is currently prospering, economic growth continues to be uneven, particularly as between metropolitan and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has resolved to use resources strategically to build on our state's strengths while addressing threats to our prosperity by providing rural counties that have fewer financial resources with which to address inadequacies in infrastructure caused by the impact of the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature desires and intends to assist such rural counties in meeting the infrastructure needs required in a growing economy by providing Whatcom County financial assistance to rural counties by allowing the shifting of sales tax revenues from state coffers to local county budgets; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has provided an opportunity for rural counties to retain sales tax revenues that would normally be directed to the state government per RCW 82.17.370; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County comes under the definition of "rural county" by virtue of its population density being less than one hundred persons per square mile.

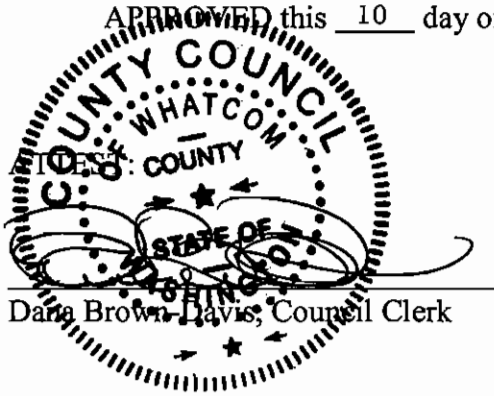
WHEREAS, the State Legislature has increased the sales tax allowed to be retained by rural counties from .08% to .09%; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED Whatcom County does hereby increase the sales tax retained under the provisions of RCW 82.14.370 from .08% to .09%, beginning August 1, 2007, for local county use in financing public facilities as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that these funds shall be deducted from the tax already collected or paid to Department of Revenue under RCW 82.08 and 82.12.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that Whatcom County Code Title 3, Chapter 3.34 Section 3.34.020 Tax rate is hereby amended as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

APPROVED this 10 day of July, 2007.



Dana Brown Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



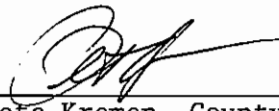
Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Approved () Denied



Pete Kremen, County Executive

Date: 7-11-07

EXHIBIT A

The rate of the tax imposed by this chapter on each taxable event shall be 0.04% through December 31, 1999, and 0.08% beginning January 1, 2000, through July 31, 2024 2007, 0.09% beginning August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2024 applied to the selling price or value of the article used, as the case may be. (Ord. 99-032).