

SB 248 Elimination of Sales Tax on Food Items

The wording in this bill concerns me on several levels. I won't speak to my personal feelings on the Governor using this topic as a campaign promise to get elected. But I will speak to its original intent of only being reduced at the state level. Sales tax generation at the local level kept the City of Colby from raising the mill levy for the general budget for 2023. My hope is that the increase in sales tax revenues will also help the city from raising mill levies for 2024 budget as well. Colby has the second highest pull factor in the state. That means on every dollar we collect on our local sales tax, 47 cents was paid by someone passing through our community. Where raising the property tax places the burden directly on the citizens that live in our community.

Colby has a .75% local sales tax that was passed to pay the bonds on our newly constructed Colby Event Center. Any reduction in sales tax collections could place the bonds for the Event Center in jeopardy.

I would ask that the state keep their promise in only reducing the state sales tax on food items and remand local sales tax decision to the local decision makers.

Sincerely,

Ron Alexander
City Manager
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