

**From:** NO NAME <~~jasamota.1@gmail.com~~>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 9:34 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board; Arts Staff  
**Subject:** Public Comment Re: Supervisor Board Meeting 2/10/26, Agenda Item D.2 (introduction ordinance No.2026-05)

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D.2. CONSIDER introducing Ordinance No. 2026-05 authorizing the levy of a 0.625% General Retail Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax in Contra Costa County, WAIVE reading and FIX March 3, 2026 for adoption of the ordinance and a resolution calling an election for June 2, 2026, and submitting the general sales tax measure to the voters. (Timothy Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator)  
Attachments: PowerPoint Presentation Ordinance No. 2026-05 DRAFT Resolution Authorizing Sales Tax

OBJECTION: to the waving of the reading of Ordinance No. 2-26-05, authorizing the levy of a .625% General Retail Transaction (Sales) and Use Tax. This information needs to be made a part of the record for those who have not seen the draft prior to this meeting.

OBJECTION: CONSIDER introducing Ordinance No. 2026-05 authorizing the levy of a 0.625% General Retail Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax in Contra Costa County

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has proposed a sales tax increase to be placed on the June 2, 2026, ballot.

This increase would be a .5% to .625%, increase to the current local sales tax rate. Current sales tax rates in East County:

- Brentwood: 8.75%
- Antioch: 9.75%
- Oakley: 8.75%
- Discovery Bay: 8.75%

This proposed sales tax increase, the supervisors say, is to cover future funding losses from the passage of “THE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL”, signed on July 4, 2025, which, the Federal Govt. reduced or eliminated funding for food assistance and healthcare.

If approved, it will double sales tax. The county is misleading us, and the “new” sales tax monies would go into the County’s “**GENERAL FUND**”, available for the supervisors to spend any way they see fit, i.e., raises for

county employees( possible 5% raises), bringing support staff up to 6 total per district office, and/or for “pet projects”, such as the new development of the East County Services Center in Brentwood. The new estimated cost for the county service center is now \$155 million dollars and not the original estimate of \$110-130 million. [1]

The 2% local tax limit is State mandated: CRTC 7251.1 refers to the California Revenue and Taxation Code, which is part of the Transactions and Use Tax Law (Division 2, Part 1.6, Chapter 1). This section specifically outlines the Limitation on the Rate of Tax for local sales tax districts.

California Revenue and Taxation Code (CRTC) Section 7251.1, part of the Transactions and Use Tax Law establishes a cap on local sales and use taxes within California counties.

Key Provisions of CA Rev & Tax Code § 7251.1 (2025):

- **2% Limit:** The combined rate of all taxes imposed in accordance with the Transaction and Use Tax Law in any county may NOT exceed 2% (over the state tax)
- **Adoption Restriction:** No tax can be adopted if it causes the combined rate in the county to exceed 2%.
- **Effective Date:** Amended by Stats. 2003, Ch 709, Sec. 1, effective January 1, 2004,

Furthermore, Contra Costa County assessed property values hit a “RECORD HIGH”. The highest total assessed value in the county’s history. The CCC assessed property values most recent report, dated July 1, 2025, will add an estimated \$116-120 million **MORE** dollars to the county’s coffers. Our property taxes continue to rise, and new development is expected which will add additional revenue.

In addition, Measure X, a .5% sales tax was approved by voters in November 2020, with sales tax monies being collected beginning April 1, 2021. The following details of the Cumulative Unspent Budgeted Funds are as follows:

The County tracks Measure X funds that have been appropriated (budgeted to specific departments/projects) but not yet spent as of June 30, 2025.

**Total unspent appropriated (assigned):** Measure X funds across departments: \$261,887,535. This includes unspent balances in categories like fire protection, health services, human services, conservation & development, public works, library services and other services such as animal services, Clerk-Recorder, probation, etc.

**Unappropriated (Not Yet Budgeted):** Measure X revenues measured separately from budgeted unspent funds (the balance of revenue that has not yet been formally budgeted/appropriated) for FY 24-25 totaled \$1,622,665. Out of that remaining unspent balance, the county transferred \$1.57 million in a one-time allocation into FY 25-26 budget. The transfer of these funds is not reflected in the county’s assessment of the FY 24-25 revenue balance. The unrecorded transfer leads one to believe that there was a remaining balance of unspent revenue when in fact almost all the money was deposited into the budget for FY25-26.

Over the past five years, the County's expenditure has risen by 58%. This increase considers an approximate 18% inflation rate while the population has remained essentially static. Population grew by only 1%. During the

2020-2021 fiscal year, county spending totaled \$4.5 billion. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, spending is projected to reach increase it to \$7.15 billion.

Considering the information identified above, there's plenty of revenue available. Contra Costa County Supervisors need to take care of its residents and do better with our hard-earned money by coming up with solutions without taking the easy way out and simply increasing taxes.

The County has failed to audit any services or departments that are not impacting on the community as expected. They have not indicated any cost cutting changes that would ease the need for additional taxes. Where is the fat being cut out of the county government?

As mentioned above, Supervisor John Gioia has mentioned that State Senator Jesse Arreguin (D- Oakland), would be willing to try to pass legislation in the State Senate to override the limit of 2% local sales tax rate. Contra Costa County is trying to follow the City of Hercules example with the exception to well exceeding Hercules request. Contra Costa wants to increase our tax cap from 2% to 4%. Contra Costa is planning on using Senate Bill (SB) 762. to seek approval.

Based on the most recent legislative activity (2025-2026 Regular Session), California Senate Bill SB 762 authorizes the City of Hercules to levy a transaction and use tax of up to 1%. This measure has the potential to exceed the standard 2% state limit, and the tax may be applied for either general or specific purposes.

Also in consideration is another tax that will be added to the new county tax hike. California State Bill (SB 63), Wiener. San Francisco Bay area: local revenue measure: public transit funding.

The Bay Area County Traffic and Transportation Funding Act authorizes the formation of county transportation authorities in each of the 9 bay area counties and provides for the imposition of a retail transaction and use tax in each of those counties of either 1/2 of 1% or 1%, subject to voter approval, with revenues to be used for various transportation purposes.

**(Disclaimer: I have made every effort to present accurate facts; please inform me of any discrepancies.)**

<sup>[1]</sup> (The project is experiencing a significant cost increase, amounting to at least \$25 million over a seven-month period, with the potential for further escalation as development continues. This rise in expenses has been attributed to the addition of more space intended for extra departments. However, there is no available record detailing which departments have been added, raising questions about whether these new spaces are designated for district supervisors' offices. It remains unclear if the public was notified prior to the council meeting held on January 13, 2026, where a slide presentation featuring architectural drawings of the new building was shown. This lack of transparency prompts speculation about the underlying reasons for the proposed tax increases, which may be connected to the expanded departmental space. If the county is genuinely concerned about rising costs and the necessity of increasing taxes, alternative measures such as adjusting project expenses could have been considered. Instead, the decision to proceed with higher costs without adequately informing the public is a cause for concern.)

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