



All of us have to personally carefully budget our money and make sure that we are responsible with our spending. As Mayor and Council, we are determined to manage the city's revenues and expenses as efficiently and effectively as possible to deliver the highest quality services. Providing our citizens and businesses with streets, libraries, parks, water, fire and police protection as well as other essential services is our duty, but it is also our responsibility to keep as much of your hard earned money in your own pockets as possible.

Between 35% and 40% of the revenue needed to provide municipal services comes from our city sales tax. Another 35% to 40% comes from state sales taxes that are partially shared with all cities and towns. We are often asked questions about the total sales tax rate which shows up on receipts on purchases at stores and other places. The following explanation is hopefully interesting and also helpful to better understand sales taxes in Arizona.

The total sales tax rate for retail transactions in the city of Glendale is 8.5% but only a portion of that amount is charged by and/or received by us. So where does it all go? The State of Arizona receives the largest portion of your sales tax at 5.6%. Of this, 5% is a general tax and 0.6% is for education from Proposition 301. Maricopa County receives 0.7% of the 8.5%. Roads are funded with 0.5% of the county's portion and jails are funded with 0.2% of the county's portion.

The city of Glendale receives a base city sales tax rate of 1.2%. In addition to this base rate, there are special voter-approved designated taxes, similar to many other cities. In 1994, Glendale voters approved a citizen initiative for a 0.1% sales tax dedicated to police and fire services. In 2001, voters approved a 0.5% tax for Glendale transportation purposes. In 2007, our voters approved Proposition 401 which increased the original public safety tax by 0.4%. The new public safety tax does not apply to "food for home consumption." At this time, Glendale's original base city sales tax rate plus the three voter-approved, dedicated sales taxes total 2.2%.

There are additional tax rates that apply to specific types of activities that can vary by city. For instance, the state of Arizona defines restaurant food, take-out orders, catered food, or foods that are served at events to be "food for consumption on the premises." Therefore, you will notice a higher tax rate for these "non-essential" purchases than you will for your bread and milk. Lodging is another example of an activity that has a separate, additional tax rate which varies by city. Visitors who stay in a hotel or motel in Maricopa County will also be charged an additional 1.0% voter approved tax that goes to the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority for the construction of sports and entertainment complexes, tourism, and for youth

Sports facilities.

With your continued support, your councilmembers and I will always strive to be responsible with the city's budget and continue to look for the most efficient ways to provide all of you with essential services.

*Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or [mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com](mailto:mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com), if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.*