

CITY OF WESTMINSTER  
ORDINANCE NO. 2609

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 3.10 (TRANSACTION AND USE TAX OF 2024) TO TITLE 3 (REVENUE AND FINANCE) OF THE WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL CODE

THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CODE. Chapter 3.10 (Transactions and Use Tax of 2024) is hereby added to Title 3 (Revenue and Finance) of the Westminster Municipal Code:

**"Section 3.10.005. Short Title.**

This chapter shall be known as the City of Westminster Safety, Services and Stabilization Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance of 2024. The City of Westminster hereinafter shall be called "City." This ordinance shall be applicable in the incorporated territory of the City.

**Section 3.10.010. Operative Date.**

"Operative Date" means the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing more than 110 days after the adoption of this ordinance, the date of such adoption being as set forth below.

**Section 3.10.020. Purpose.**

This chapter is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to accomplish those purposes:

A. To impose a retail transaction and use tax in accordance with the provisions of Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and Section 7285.9 of Part 1.7 of Division 2 which authorizes the City to adopt this tax ordinance which shall be operative if a majority of the electors voting on the measure vote to approve the imposition of the tax at an election called for that purpose.

B. To adopt a retail transaction and use tax ordinance that incorporates provisions identical to those of the Sales and Use Tax Law of the State of California insofar as those provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements and limitations contained in Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

C. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that imposes a tax and provides a measure therefore that can be administered and collected by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in a manner that adapts itself as fully as practicable to, and requires the least possible deviation from, the existing statutory and administrative procedures followed by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in administering and collecting the California State Sales and Use Taxes.

D. To adopt a retail transaction and use tax ordinance that can be administered in a manner that will be, to the greatest degree possible, consistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, minimize the cost of collecting the transactions and use taxes, and at the same time, minimize the burden of record keeping upon persons subject to taxation under the provisions of this ordinance.

### **Section 3.10.030. Contract With State.**

Prior to the operative date, the City shall contract with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to perform all functions incident to the administration and operation of this transactions and use tax ordinance; provided, that if the City shall not have contracted with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration prior to the operative date, it shall nevertheless so contract and in such a case the operative date shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract.

### **Section 3.10.040. Transactions Tax Rate.**

For the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail, a tax is hereby imposed upon all retailers in the incorporated territory of the City at the rate of 0.5% of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in said territory on and after the operative date of this ordinance.

### **Section 3.10.050. Place of Sale.**

For the purposes of this ordinance, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the state sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

**Section 3.10.060. Use Tax Rate.**

An excise tax is hereby imposed on the storage, use or other consumption in the City of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer on and after the operative date of this ordinance for storage, use or other consumption in said territory at the rate of 0.5% of the sales price of the property. The sales price shall include delivery charges when such charges are subject to state sales or use tax regardless of the place to which delivery is made.

**Section 3.10.070. Adoption of Provisions of State Law.**

Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance and except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all of the provisions of Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code are hereby adopted and made a part of this ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

**Section 3.10.080. Limitations on Adoption of State Law and Collection of Use Taxes.**

In adopting the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code:

A. Wherever the State of California is named or referred to as the taxing agency, the name of this City shall be substituted therefor. However, the substitution shall not be made when:

1. The word "State" is used as a part of the title of the State Controller, State Treasurer, State Treasury, or the Constitution of the State of California;
2. The result of that substitution would require action to be taken by or against this City or any agency, officer, or employee thereof rather than by or against the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in performing the functions incident to the administration or operation of this Ordinance.
3. In those sections, including, but not necessarily limited to sections referring to the exterior boundaries of the State of California, where the result of the substitution would be to:
  - a. Provide an exemption from this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not otherwise be exempt from this tax while such sales, storage, use or other consumption remain subject to tax by the State under the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or;
  - b. Impose this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not be subject to tax by the state under the said provision of that code.

4. In Sections 6701, 6702 (except in the last sentence thereof), 6711, 6715, 6737, 6797 or 6828 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

B. The word "City" shall be substituted for the word "State" in the phrase "retailer engaged in business in this State" in Section 6203 and in the definition of that phrase in Section 6203.

1. A retailer engaged in business in the District" shall also include any retailer that, in the preceding calendar year or the current calendar year, has total combined sales of tangible personal property in this state or for delivery in the State by the retailer and all persons related to the retailer that exceeds five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). For purposes of this section, a person is related to another person if both persons are related to each other pursuant to Section 267(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code and the regulations thereunder.

### **Section 3.10.090. Permit Not Required.**

If a seller's permit has been issued to a retailer under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, an additional transactor's permit shall not be required by this ordinance.

### **Section 3.10.100. Exemptions and Exclusions.**

A. There shall be excluded from the measure of the transactions tax and the use tax the amount of any sales tax or use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, city and county, or county pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law or the amount of any state-administered transactions or use tax.

B. There are exempted from the computation of the amount of transactions tax the gross receipts from:

1. Sales of tangible personal property, other than fuel or petroleum products, to operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the county in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government.

2. Sales of property to be used outside the City which is shipped to a point outside the City, pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by the retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point. For the purposes of this paragraph, delivery to a point outside the City shall be satisfied:

a. With respect to vehicles (other than commercial vehicles) subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, and undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code by registration to an out-of-City address and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his or her principal place of residence; and

b. With respect to commercial vehicles, by registration to a place of business out-of-City and declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, that the vehicle will be operated from that address.

3. The sale of tangible personal property if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this ordinance.

4. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property, for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by the lease prior to the operative date of this ordinance.

5. For the purposes of subparagraphs (3) and (4) of this section, the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

C. There are exempted from the use tax imposed by this ordinance, the storage, use or other consumption in this City of tangible personal property:

1. The gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transactions tax under any state-administered transactions and use tax ordinance.

2. Other than fuel or petroleum products purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government. This exemption is in addition to the exemptions provided in Sections 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California.

3. If the purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this ordinance.

4. If the possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, the tangible personal property arises under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property for any period of time for which the lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the operative date of this ordinance.

5. For the purposes of subparagraphs (3) and (4) of this section, storage, use, or other consumption, or possession of, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

6. Except as provided in subparagraph (7), a retailer engaged in business in the City shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchaser of tangible personal property, unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the City or participates within the City in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the City or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, subsidiary, or person in the City under the authority of the retailer.

7. "A retailer engaged in business in the City" shall also include any retailer of any of the following: vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, or undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code. That retailer shall be required to collect use tax from any purchaser who registers or licenses the vehicle, vessel, or aircraft at an address in the City.

D. Any person subject to use tax under this ordinance may credit against that tax any transactions tax or reimbursement for transactions tax paid to a district imposing, or retailer liable for a transactions tax pursuant to Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code with respect to the sale to the person of the property the storage, use or other consumption of which is subject to the use tax.

#### **Section 3.10.110. Amendments.**

All amendments subsequent to the effective date of this ordinance to Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to sales and use taxes and which are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and all amendments to Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall automatically become a part of this ordinance, provided however, that no such amendment shall operate so as to affect the rate of tax imposed by this ordinance.

### **Section 3.10.120. Enjoining Collection Forbidden.**

No injunction or writ of mandate or other legal or equitable process shall issue in any suit, action or proceeding in any court against the State or the City, or against any officer of the State or the City, to prevent or enjoin the collection under this ordinance, or Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected.

### **Section 3.10.130. Fiscal Accountability Provisions; Citizen Oversight and Independent Annual Financial Audits.**

Consistent with the City's ongoing commitment to citizen involvement as a fundamental principle of good government, specific citizen oversight and fiscal accountability provisions regarding the revenues collected as a result of the adoption of this ordinance are hereby established as follows:

A. Independent Annual Financial Audit. The amount generated by this new general purpose revenue source and how the revenues were used shall be included in a annual audit of the City's financial operations by an independent certified public accountant.

B. Integration of the Use of Funds into the City's Budget and Strategic Planning Process. The estimated revenue and proposed use of funds generated by this ordinance shall be an integral part of the City's budget and strategic planning process, and significant opportunities will be provided for meaningful participation by citizens in determining priority use of these funds.

C. Annual Community Report. A written report will be provided annually to every household in the City detailing how much revenue is being generated by the ordinance and how funds are being used.

D. Bi -annual Citizen Oversight Meeting. An oversight committee appointed by City Council will convene twice in a yearly period to review and discuss the use of the revenue generated by the measure. City staff will also be available to meet with any group that requests a specific briefing with their members to discuss and answer questions about the revenue generated by the measure and its uses.

E. Enforcement. In the event the City Council, the Citizen's Oversight Committee, the City, any employee of the City, or any member of the City Council or the Citizen's Oversight Committee fails to take an action required by this Section, any court of competent jurisdiction may order that the action be taken. However, such failure to act shall not invalidate the City's authority to levy any tax or in any way affect the ongoing collection of any tax pursuant to this Ordinance.

**Section 3.10.140. Use of Proceeds.**

The proceeds from the tax imposed by this chapter shall be deposited in the general fund of the City and available for any lawful municipal purpose.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3. SEPARATE REVENUE SOURCE. This ordinance does not amend the City of Westminster Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance of 2022 (Chapter 3.11 of the Westminster Municipal Code). The 1.0% tax imposed by that ordinance is separate from, and in addition to, the 0.5% tax imposed by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. FORMER TAX. Former Chapter 3.10 of the Westminster Municipal Code imposed a tax that expired by its own terms on December 31, 2022. The voter-approved ordinance adopting the Westminster Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance of 2022 repealed that former Chapter 3.10.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance relates to the levying and collecting of the City transactions and use taxes and shall take effect immediately. However, no tax imposed by this ordinance shall be effective unless that tax has been approved by a majority of the voters of the City as required by Section 2(b) of Article XIII C of the California Constitution and applicable law. If so approved, the tax imposed by this ordinance shall take effect as set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance.

INTRODUCED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 8, 2023 AND PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2024 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

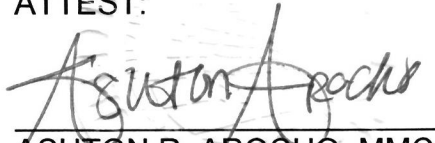
AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: C. NGUYEN, HO, PHAN WEST, MANZO, N. NGUYEN  
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE  
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE  
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE

CITY OF WESTMINSTER



CHI CHARLIE NGUYEN  
MAYOR

ATTEST:



ASHTON R. AROCHO, MMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CHRISTIAN L. BETTENHAUSEN  
CITY ATTORNEY

ADOPTED BY THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER AT THE MARCH 5,  
2024 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER



CHI CHARLIE NGUYEN  
MAYOR

ATTEST:



ASHTON R. AROCHO, MMC  
CITY CLERK

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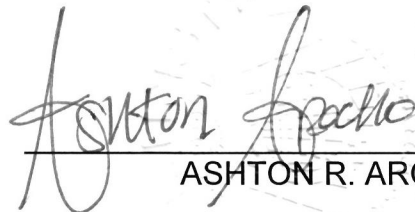
CITY OF WESTMINSTER  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CERTIFICATION  
OF  
ORDINANCE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss.  
CITY OF WESTMINSTER )

I, ASHTON R. AROCHO, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Westminster, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2609 was introduced for first reading on the 8th day of December 2023, and duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Westminster at a Regular Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024, with the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: C. NGUYEN, HO, PHAN WEST, MANZO, N. NGUYEN  
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE  
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE  
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE

  
ASHTON R. AROCHO, MMC  
City Clerk

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