



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Chris Rogers
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Inclusion in Transactions and Use Tax Legislative Efforts

Dear Assemblymember Rogers, *Chris,*

I write to respectfully request your support in ensuring the City of Santa Rosa is included in any legislative efforts relating to increases in Transactions and Use Tax (TUT) authority during this legislative session.

As Santa Rosa's former Mayor, you understand well the mounting fiscal pressures facing our city and communities across California. Over the past several years, through your leadership and partnership, we have made many difficult but fiscally responsible decisions to maintain stability and protect core services. Notably, we reduced the City's budget by \$15 million last fiscal year; this was achieved primarily by eliminating 54 positions. These reductions resulted in the loss of nine police officer positions and layoffs across City departments.

However, we have reached a point where rising service demands, aging infrastructure, inflationary cost increases, and escalating healthcare costs and public safety obligations continue to place significant strain on our budget. At the same time, local governments such as Santa Rosa operate within a highly constrained revenue structure that limits our ability to respond effectively, particularly in communities with modest tax base growth or significant legacy infrastructure needs. While statutory rate caps serve an important statewide purpose, they can also prevent cities from placing locally supported self-help measures before their voters.

Santa Rosa exemplifies many of these challenges. Like communities throughout the state, our city faces increasing costs to maintain essential municipal services and public assets while striving to preserve long-term fiscal stability. Core functions, including public safety and emergency response, park and facility maintenance, economic development, and community services, require reliable and sustainable funding sources. Despite prudent fiscal management and sustained efforts to control expenditures, existing revenues remain insufficient to fully address current and projected service and infrastructure needs.

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates your continued leadership and respectfully requests inclusion in any legislative effort addressing an increase in Transactions and Use Tax authority this session. The City is particularly interested in being included in AB 1768 (Bryan) or the final version of the bill that includes the County of Los Angeles.



We look forward to continuing to work with your office to ensure local governments have the tools necessary to remain fiscally stable, accountable, and responsive to their communities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our city and to voter-driven local decision-making.

Sincerely,

Mark Stapp
Mayor

Thank you once again and
as always. The City's government
relations director abandoned us
last year, so we are especially
dependent on your assistance.
We will chat in person soon!