



Development of a Comprehensive Tax Structure for the City and Borough of Sitka

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce supports the development of a comprehensive local tax structure that will improve the economic vitality of Sitka, place Sitka at a competitive advantage and improve the quality of life in our community.

Position Statement

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce encourages the City and Borough of Sitka to create a long term, comprehensive tax structure that is broad-based, fairly administered and sustainable over time. The Chamber supports the exploration of new strategies that will work to hasten economic recovery, spur long-term job creation and improve the city's overall business climate.

Support for the Position

The Chamber believes that the development of a comprehensive tax structure is needed to give local businesses a competitive advantage and to attract new business to our community. The Chamber recognizes that Sitka is facing a reduction in outside funding and that additional revenues must be raised to maintain current service levels. The Chamber would prefer to see an increase in commerce and trade rather than an increase in tax rates. The Chamber believes that there will need to be a complex combination of increased revenues and reduction in services to create a stable tax environment for businesses looking to grow and thrive in our community. The comprehensive plan should look not only at increasing taxes and fee structures, but privatization and a reduction in services.

Action Required for the Position

The Chamber requests that a fully transparent process be initiated, whereby City officials and local business leaders' work together to develop a comprehensive tax structure that is appropriate for the level of services expected. Furthermore, the Chamber requests that the assembly avoid making short-term decisions and instead address the full complexity of the issue.