

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-01**

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TO RESCIND THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON JANUARY 12, 2023  
THAT INCREASED THE SALES TAX RATE IN LAKE COUNTY ON  
GOODS AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT  
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution on January 12, 2023 that increased the County sales tax by an additional one-half of one percent on the sale of goods and services in Lake County which additional revenue will be collected and used for County purposes; and,

WHEREAS, this increase raises the current total sales tax rate applied to sales in Lake County to 7.75%, leaving only two of the eighty-eight counties in Ohio with a higher tax rate; and,

WHEREAS, being among the top three highest taxing counties in Ohio places Lake County and its political subdivisions at a competitive disadvantage with private businesses competing in the region; and,

WHEREAS, placing an additional tax increase on all goods and services during one of the worst inflationary periods in decades places an even greater burden on families in Lake County, many of whom are struggling to afford basic needs; and,

WHEREAS, a tax increase of this magnitude will have a negative impact on sales volume within the County, and in the City of Mentor on the Lake, which will likely suffer a loss in retail jobs and income tax revenue necessary to service the needs of the public; and,

WHEREAS, a sales tax increase at this time that is anticipated to generate up to an additional \$20 million annually is simply not necessary given that Lake County sales tax revenue, annual financial surpluses, cash reserves, and investments have all reached historically high levels and these points are all acknowledged and highlighted by the County Commissioners in their most recent Annual Financial Report; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has offered little information to the public explaining the need for the new revenue during a period marked by a strong local economy and a period of unparalleled fiscal strength and stability in County finances, nor has the Board provided transparency regarding how the new revenue that is generated from the increase would be spent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENTOR ON THE LAKE, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF OHIO:**

SECTION 1. That the City of Mentor on the Lake encourages the Lake County Board of Commissioners to rescind the Resolution adopted January 12, 2023 that increases the tax burden on the residents and families of Lake County, those doing business in Lake County, and on the business owners in Lake County, by an additional one-half of one percent on all goods and services purchased within the County, including all internet sales.

SECTION 2. That the Lake County Board of Commissioners is encouraged to be transparent with County residents in communicating the need for additional revenue during a period of unprecedented financial stability and for what such revenue will be used.

SECTION 3. That the Lake County Board of Commissioners are encouraged to place any question of higher taxes before the voters to decide if the new spending they propose to make cannot be met through a reprioritization of County services.

SECTION 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that, except as otherwise provided by Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.


SECTION 5. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be and is passed as an emergency measure, the emergency being the need to express the City's Opinion about the Sales Tax Increase by the Lake County Commissioners. Said Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the City.

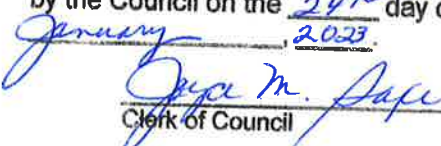
WHEREFORE, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by Council and approval by the Mayor.

ADOPTED: January 24, 2023

  
ROBERT JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: Joyce M. Dape  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
DAVID R. EVA  
MAYOR

I, Joyce M. Dape Clerk of Council of the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2023-R-01 passed by the Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.  
  
Clerk of Council

Dated: 1/24/2023