



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County Calls for State Sales Tax Modernization

Geneseo, NY, February 6, 2019— Today Livingston County called on the New York State Legislature to pass, and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign, a bill modernizing state sales taxes and enforce the collection of taxes through third-party sales made on online retail websites. Under current law, online retailers such as Amazon have no responsibility to enforce or collect state and local sales taxes on purchases made on their website through third-party sellers.

Researchers estimate New York State has missed millions of dollars by not enforcing the collection of sales taxes through online third party purchases. According to data from the New York State Association of Counties:

- Over \$110 billion was transacted in the United States through online retailers in 2016.
- Around \$275 million in sales taxes would be collected through third-party sales in the first full year alone if an enforcement measure were enacted.
- A majority of all products sold on Amazon are sold via third-party, meaning sales taxes are not collected in New York State on these purchases.

“It is abundantly clear that local governments across the state are missing out on millions of dollars in revenue that are legally owed to them,” said County Administrator Ian M. Coyle. “We

applaud the Governor's proposal to have the state step-up to its responsibility to make sure local governments have every legal avenue possible to collect the revenue owed to them. Livingston County calls on its entire state legislative delegation to support and Governor Cuomo to sign a measure fully enforcing the collection of online sales taxes via third-party sellers."

Governor Cuomo introduced a measure to enforce the collection of sales taxes online in his most-recent Executive Budget proposal.

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