



CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

P.O. Box 608 Whittier, Alaska 99693 | (907) 472-2327 | Fax (907) 472-2404

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Shen and Council Members
Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
From: Shelby Carlson, Acting City Clerk
Date: December 16, 2025
Subject: Year-Round Sales Tax Mailer Results

At the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting, the City Council unanimously adopted a motion directing Administration to conduct a bulk mailing to all registered voters in the Whittier precinct. The motion instructed staff to mail a single-question survey—“*Do you support the year-round sales tax?*”—and to include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope to make responses as easy as possible for voters to provide. No additional information or education was to be provided with the mailer. The mailing list was generated from the State of Alaska’s list of registered voters for the Whittier precinct, as directed by Council.

A total of **234 mailers** were sent. Of those, **73 were returned completed**. Thirty-one of the returned surveys included written comments; these are provided in full in the attachment, transcribed as written. The response tally was:

- **24 “Yes”**
- **49 “No”**

Staff notes that this outreach was intended as an informal method of gathering community feedback and does not represent a statistically valid sample. Results should be understood as indicative input rather than a formal vote.

The cost of printing and mailing the 234 surveys, including return mail postage, totaled \$415.21.

Attachments:

1. Summary table of results
2. Copy of mailed survey
3. Complete set of returned comments (as written)

| Category | Number | Notes |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Mailers Sent | 234 | Sent to all registered voters in the Whittier precinct |
| Completed Responses Returned | 73 | Includes all surveys returned with a marked response |
| Response Rate | 31% | % of mailed surveys returned completed |
| “Yes” Responses | 24 | 33% of total responses |
| “No” Responses | 49 | 67% of total responses |
| Responses With Comments | 31 | Full text included in attachment |
| Mailing Date | November 5, 2025 | |
| Response Window | December 9, 2025 | |

City of Whittier

COUNCIL ADVISORY QUESTION



Do you support the year-round sales tax?

Yes

No

Comments (optional):

Please check one box and return this postcard. Your feedback helps the City Council understand community views.

Advisory Question for Registered Voters

Dear Whittier Voter,

The Whittier City Council is seeking community input on the following advisory question:

“Do you support the year-round sales tax?”

This is *not* an election. Your response is advisory only and will be summarized for the Council to help inform future decisions.

To respond:

1. Flip this postcard over.
2. Check “Yes” or “No.”
3. Add any comments in the space provided (optional).
4. Drop it in the mail — no postage needed.

Please return your postcard by **Tuesday, December 9, 2025** so your views can be included in the summary report to Council.

Thank you for sharing your opinion.

| DO YOU SUPPORT THE YEAR-ROUND SALES TAX? | COMMENTS |
|---|---|
| NO | This is a regressive tax and is harming the small businesses that support the Whittier Community. Do a better job with your budget and you won't need to tax the community so much! |
| NO | Why would we have the few year-round residents pay tax - many struggle |
| NO | H*** no! Absolutely not! Learn to manage city \$ better! |
| NO | Clean up the city then we can talk. I want no more of anything I pay into city coffers to go towards the alcoholics and lazy people that won't work etc. - the cost of goods and doing business keeps exploding. Our only six blocks s/b maintain |
| NO | Wages have not keep up with inflation and tariffs. There for our standard of living is falling behind. |
| NO | Between inflation and tariffs we can't keep up - wages aren't keeping pace |
| NO | We used to have a choice. You all do behind the back B.S. made us prisoners. |
| NO | I would think the number of cruise ships doubling would more than offset the small amount of taxes collected in the off season and relieve some operating expenses. Thanks for asking. |
| NO | The citizens of Whittier has been hammered enough. |
| NO | If Administration can't be here more than 1 day a week - full time residents shouldn't have to pay if they don't!!! |
| NO | So now we will survey everyone after an ordinance is passed? How about send out a survey about the Ground Transport Fee. A LOT more people spoke |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | up against that "fee" but have not given the same opportunity for a survey . This is a ridiculous waste of time. If this is how you're going to spend hard earned tax money - I'll vote no. |
| NO | I don't support tax money being wasted on frivolous surveys - to what end - what do you really expect to come of this - especially with no details, no background - who really says yes to tax especially w/ no context. What an ABSOLUTE waste of time, energy and money! |
| NO | Add more tax so the City Manager can show up LESS? |
| NO | Year-round residents should be exempt. |
| NO | I would support a tiered sales tax with no tax on groceries and a higher tax (luxury tax) on high end items. |
| NO | Stop making jobs when the hired personnel can conduct the work. I see too many city employees not at work/working. |
| NO | No tax for Residents. |
| NO | Taxes shouldn't apply to AK residents. |
| NO | With Whittier/Alaska ID @ tourist season tax shouldn't be either if unable to provide proof of residency then tax customers. |
| NO | Absolutely no taxes. |
| YES | 1) This type of questionnaire is a waste of resources. No one wants to pay more, however information on where the \$ goes and who are the biggest contributors would be way more informative! |
| YES | Explain what % is paid by non-Whittier residents. Explain where the \$ goes. Please don't waste time and money on this type of questionnaire! |
| YES | I support this as it will help stabilize our local economy and support local services and infrastructure enhancing our communities quality of life. |
| YES | 2 local registered voters both yes |
| YES | The time has come for year-round sales tax again! |
| YES | Whittier lives on hand outs. Roads don't pave themselves. Time to pay up and stop freeloading. |
| YES | With so many local exclusions, how can anyone say "no"! We need to help support Whittier's needs, not pawn them off on those who live outside of Whittier! |
| YES | Hope the money gets well used and budgeted by our city |
| YES | This is a ridiculous process without any context. Open up the non-producing leased properties that have been vacant for years! |
| YES | Flashbacks of middle school. Do you like me?? Check yes or no. Council mentality. |
| YES | Year round residents benefit from year-round service, so we should pay year round |