

Public Comment

What is the financial impact of eliminating the sales tax on groceries in light of increasing the property tax mill rate? This seems unnecessary. Why would you eliminate one tax and raise another tax? If you own a home and live here you buy food here. If you live here only seasonally and/or don't pay property tax, or if you can pass an increase in property tax on to your clients, then this would be a good deal for you.

The senior sales tax exemption should remain for those with low incomes. Why is that not part of the "bargain?"

Why tourists were categorically exempted from the "grand bargain?" If fairness is a consideration, then they and the businesses that profit from them should be expected to share in the cost of city services. What about increasing the bed tax?

Why wasn't closing tax loopholes or broadening the tax base considered? It is my understanding that not a single person going on a whale watching tour, kayak tour, fishing charter, etc. etc. sold through a cruise line agency pays a dime in sales tax. None, nada, zero. If there is a law against collecting sales tax on these excursions, then in my opinion, an increased "head tax" on cruise ship tourists should be in the "bargain."

The following sentence was taken from a internet search on "Grand Bargain"- the perception is that the underlined part has yet to be addressed in "Sitka's grand bargain."

"In general, the proposals involve some marginal tax rate increases, some marginal tax rate decreases, and base broadening by closing, canceling, or limiting tax loopholes, deductions, credits, or other tax expenditures for top income earners and corporations."