



## News Release

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### For Immediate Release:

### ***Public Forum on Proposed Use Tax Initiative Scheduled***

*The governing bodies of Phelps County, the City of Rolla and the City of St. James are collectively calling for ballot initiatives on the Use Tax on the November 5<sup>th</sup> election. The Use Tax issues will be the only questions on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, but the impact on local services is critical. Fundamentally the Use Tax is the application of the local sales tax rate on purchases made out-of-state, particularly from internet and online purchases.*

*To share information on the ballot issues the Communities will collectively host a public forum on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the County Multi-Purpose Room from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Representatives from the County and cities will briefly speak on their public service needs and their plans for the Use Tax and the Chamber of Commerce will share information on the fairness of supporting local brick and mortar stores – currently local retailers are at a disadvantage with online and out-of-state purchases who do not collect and remit local taxes. Mr. Stuart Haynes, Policy Associate with the MO Municipal League, (and RHS alumni) will provide a thorough overview of the Use Tax issue.*

*The State of Missouri along with more than 260 cities and counties have enacted the Use Tax in part due to shifting retail sales from traditional local stores and retailers to out-of-state and online companies and to level the playing field for local businesses. The US Census Bureau reports that e-commerce was nearly 10% in 2018.*

#### TECH | CHART OF THE DAY

### The rise of e-commerce in the US

