



# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 160

EFFECTIVE March 30, 2025

WHEREAS, Tax sales have been condemned generally as a means of dispossession, particularly to elderly, impoverished, and nonwhite homeowners; and

WHEREAS, The conducting of tax sales online by municipalities facilitates a process arduous to navigate for those whose tax arrearages have been sold and lack sufficient means to repay them; and

WHEREAS, The emergence of multinational investors as bidders in tax sales threatens to crowd out Rhode Islanders and compounds the deleterious effects of the practice; and

WHEREAS, Interventions on behalf of those homeowners threatened by tax sales are fruitful but limited in scale; and



WHEREAS, House Bill - 5959 will, if enacted, prohibit municipalities from conducting tax sales electronically unless specifically ordered by the Rhode Island Superior Court, aiding homeowners both statewide and in Providence particularly by decreasing the ease by which tax arrearages are sold; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to convey its sincere gratitude to Representatives Charlene Lima and Cherie Cruz for their leadership on this issue.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council offers its strong support for House Bill - 5959 and its ban on online tax sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Dominic Ruggiero, Representatives Charlene Lima and Cherie Cruz, and the Providence delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 20 2025  
READ AND PASSED

  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

  
Tina L. Mastroianni  
City Clerk



EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PUBLIC AUCTIONS BY ELECTRONIC OR REMOTE  
PROCEDURES

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1           This act would require public auctions by any city or town of real estate or an interest  
2           therein to only be done in person and not by electronic or remote procedures unless authorized by  
3           court order.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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