



Maria Mansolillo
City Collector

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence RI, 02903

I write this letter in opposition to House Bill H7359 as it relates to the provision of Chapter 9 of Title 44.

The City of Providence conducts the largest tax sale in the state with 200-300 properties offered annually. Due to Covid 19, the city began conducting online tax sales in 2020. Since that time, we have found online tax sales to be more efficient improving our internal processes and reducing administrative burdens. Most importantly, online tax sales have proven to be impartial, fair and transparent.

Previously, all in-person tax sales were conducted in the Council Chambers. The process of selecting the successful bidder in a room of 170 registered bidders required manual selection by the auctioneer. It was difficult to discern a first bidder in a room of 170 registered bidders. Online tax sales removed the human element in selecting bidders and the bias present therefore making the process completely transparent and equitable. The virtual format has created a more level playing field for all registered bidders.

Over the past several years, the City has been working to make the City of Providence's tax sales more efficient, impartial, fair and transparent. Returning to in-person tax sales will negate the steps we have taken to accomplish this.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the committee to vote no on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Mansolillo".

Maria Mansolillo
City Collector

CITY COLLECTOR

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