



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

Buffalo County Commission
c/o Debra Morrison
PO Box 146
Gann Valley, SD 57341-0146

Dear County Commissioners,

At the end of the 2026 Legislative Session, I signed two bills into law that combined will result in the largest property tax cut in South Dakota history. One of those bills requires action at the local level to provide relief: Senate Bill 96.

This legislation gives the people in each county the option to reduce their property taxes through a half-cent local option sales tax. Whether it's adopted by a county commission, referred to a public vote, or initiated by the people themselves, it puts the decision in the hands of the folks who know their communities best.

The voters and commissioners in each county need to decide if this new option is right for them. In many of our fastest-growing counties, where property taxes have risen the most, tourism plays a major role in the local economy. Should the residents of your community choose to implement this option, visitors would help shoulder the burden and help provide real relief for homeowners.

The option will be available after July 1, but preparations can start today. The Department of Revenue (DOR) has resources available on their website at dor.sd.gov to help your commission implement this option. DOR Secretary Mike Houdyshell will be joining the monthly County Association webinar in May to provide further information and answer your questions.

In the meantime, the DOR Business Tax Division can be reached at 1-800-829-9188 or BTAccounting@state.sd.us.

Thank you for your leadership in considering this new option for property tax relief.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Larry Rhoden, written in a cursive style.

Larry Rhoden
Governor