

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 04-2021**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO
AMENDING SECTION 3-2 “SALES TAX” OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE TO
ADOPT UNIFORM DEFINITIONS TO ADDRESS SELLERS WITH NO PHYSICAL
PRESENCE IN THE TOWN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (“Town”) is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town's Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XX, Section 6 of the Colorado Constitution, the right to enact, administer and enforce sales taxes is clearly within the constitutional grant of power to the Town and is necessary to raise revenue with which to conduct the affairs and render the services performed by the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such authority, the Town has adopted and enacted Sales Tax Regulations (the “Code”), under which Town sales tax is levied on all sales and purchases of tangible personal property or taxable services at retail unless prohibited, as applicable to the provision of this Ordinance, under the Constitution or laws of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, 138 S.Ct. 2080 (2018), overturned prior precedent and held that a State is not prohibited by the Commerce Clause from requiring a retailer to collect sales tax based solely on the fact that such retailer does not have a physical presence in the State (“Remote Sales”); and

WHEREAS, based upon such decision, the retailer’s obligation to collect Remote Sales is no longer based on the retailer’s physical presence in the jurisdiction by the Constitution or law of the United States, and the Town’s Sales Tax Regulations need to be amended to clearly reflect such obligation consistent with said decision; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of tangible personal property, products, or services into the Town relies on and burdens local transportation systems, emergency and police services, waste disposal, utilities and other infrastructure and services; and

WHEREAS, the failure to tax remote sales creates incentives for businesses to avoid a physical presence in the State and its respective communities, resulting in fewer jobs and increasing the share of taxes to those consumers who buy from competitors with a physical presence in the State and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for Colorado municipalities to adopt uniform definitions within their sales tax codes to encompass marketplace facilitators, marketplace sellers, and multichannel sellers that do not have a physical presence in the Town, but that still have a taxable connection with the Town; and

WHEREAS, the goal of adopting this ordinance is to join in on the simplification efforts of all the self-collecting home rule municipalities in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance provides a safe harbor to those who transact limited sales within the Town; and

WHEREAS, absent such amendment, the continued failure of retailers to voluntarily apply and remit sales tax owed on remote sales exposes the municipality to unremitted taxes and permits an inequitable exception that prevents market participants from competing on an even playing field; and

WHEREAS, the Town adopts this ordinance with the intent to address tax administration, and, in connection with, establish economic nexus for retailers or vendors without physical presence in the State and require the retailer or vendor to collect and remit sales tax for all sales made within the marketplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO the following:

Section 1. Recitals Incorporated. The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council.

Section 2. Section 3-2-2 of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

“Engaged in Business in the Town” means performing or providing services or selling, leasing, renting, delivering or installing tangible personal property, products, or services for storage, use or consumption, within the Town. Engaged in Business in the Town includes, but is not limited to, any one of the following activities by a person: (1) Directly, indirectly, or by a subsidiary maintains a building, store, office, salesroom, warehouse, or other place of business within the taxing jurisdiction; (2) Sends one or more employees, agents or commissioned sales persons into the taxing jurisdiction to solicit business or to install, assemble, repair, service, or assist in the use of its products, or for demonstration or other reasons; (3) Maintains one or more employees, agents or commissioned sales persons on duty at a location within the taxing jurisdiction; (4) Owns, leases, rents or otherwise exercises control over real or personal property within the taxing jurisdiction; (5) Retailer or vendor in the state of Colorado that makes more than one delivery into the taxing jurisdiction within a twelve month period; or (6) Makes retail sales sufficient to meet the definitional requirements of economic nexus as set forth in Subsection 3-2-2.

Section 3. Section 3-2-2 of the Code is hereby amended as follows:

“Retailer or Vendor” means any person selling, leasing, renting, or granting a license to use tangible personal property or services at retail. The terms “retailer” shall include, but is not limited to, any:

- (1) Auctioneer;
- (2) Salesperson, representative, peddler or canvasser, who makes sales as a direct or indirect agent of or obtains such property or services sold from a dealer, distributor, supervisor or employer;
- (3) Charitable organization or governmental entity which makes sales of tangible personal property to the public, notwithstanding the fact that the merchandise sold may have been acquired by gift or donation or that the proceeds are to be used for charitable or governmental purposes;
- (4) Retailer-contractor, when acting in the capacity of a seller of building supplies, construction materials, and other tangible personal property.
- (5) Marketplace facilitator, marketplace seller, or multichannel seller.

Section 4. Section 3-2-2 of the Code is hereby amended to include the following new definitions:

“Economic Nexus” means the connection between the Town and a person not having a physical nexus in the State of Colorado, which connection is established when the person or marketplace facilitator makes retail sales into the Town, and:

- (A) In the previous calendar year, the person, which includes a marketplace facilitator, has made retail sales into the state exceeding the amount specified in C.R.S. § 39-26-102(3)(c), as amended; or
- (B) In the current calendar year, 90 days has passed following the month in which the person, which includes a marketplace facilitator, has made retail sales into the state exceeding the amount specified in C.R.S. § 39-26-102(3)(c), as amended.

This definition does not apply to any person who is doing business in this state but otherwise applies to any other person.

“Marketplace” means a physical or electronic forum, including, but not limited to, a store, a booth, an internet website, a catalog, or a dedicated sales software application, where tangible personal property, taxable products, or taxable services are offered for sale.

“Marketplace Facilitator”

- (A) Means a person who:
 - (1) Contracts with a marketplace seller or multichannel seller to facilitate for consideration, regardless of whether or not the consideration is deducted as fees from the transaction, the sale of the marketplace seller’s tangible personal property, products, or services through the person’s marketplace;
 - (2) Engages directly or indirectly, through one or more affiliated persons, in transmitting or otherwise communicating the offer or acceptance between a purchaser and the marketplace seller or multichannel seller; and
 - (3) Either directly or indirectly, through agreements or arrangements with third parties, collects payment from the purchaser on behalf of the seller.
- (B) “Marketplace Facilitator” does not include a person that exclusively provides internet advertising services or lists products for sale, and that does not otherwise meet this definition.

“Marketplace Seller” means a person, regardless of whether or not the person is engaged in business in the Town, which has an agreement with a marketplace facilitator and offers for sale tangible personal property, products, or services through a marketplace owned, operated, or controlled by a marketplace facilitator.

“Multichannel Seller” means a retailer that offers for sale tangible personal property, commodities, or services through a marketplace owned, operated, or controlled by a marketplace facilitator, and through other means.

Section 5. Section 3-2-4 of the Code is hereby amended by the addition of the following new subsection:

3-2-4 (C) Marketplace Sales

“Marketplace Sales”

(C) Marketplace Sales

- (1) (a) A marketplace facilitator engaged in business in the Town is required to collect and remit sales tax on all taxable sales made by the marketplace facilitator, or facilitated by it for marketplace sellers or multichannel sellers to customers in the Town, whether or not the marketplace seller for whom sales are facilitated would have been required to collect sales tax had the sale not been facilitated by the marketplace facilitator.

(b) A marketplace facilitator shall assume all the duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of a vendor under Section 3-2-2. Marketplace facilitators shall be liable for the taxes collected from marketplace sellers or multichannel sellers. The Town may recover any unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest from the marketplace facilitator that is responsible for collecting on behalf of marketplace sellers or multichannel sellers.

(c) The liabilities, obligations, and rights set forth under this article are in addition to any duties and responsibilities of the marketplace facilitator has under this article if it also offers for sale tangible personal property, products, or services through other means.

(d) A marketplace seller, with respect to sales of tangible personal property, products, or services made in or through a marketplace facilitator's marketplace, does not have the liabilities, obligations, or rights of a retailer under this article if the marketplace seller can show that such sale was facilitated by a marketplace facilitator:
- (i) With whom the marketplace seller has a contract that explicitly provides that the marketplace facilitator will collect and remit sales tax on all sales subject to tax under this article; or
- (ii) From whom the marketplace seller requested and received in good faith a certification that the marketplace facilitator is registered to collect sales tax and will collect sales tax on all sales subject to tax under this article made in or through the marketplace facilitator's marketplace.
- (e) If a marketplace seller makes a sale that is not facilitated by a licensed marketplace facilitator in a marketplace, the marketplace seller is subject to all of the same licensing, collection, remittance, filing and recordkeeping requirements as any other retailer.
- (2) Auditing. With respect to any sale, the Town shall solely audit the marketplace facilitator for sales made by marketplace sellers or multichannel sellers but facilitated by the marketplace. The Town will not audit or otherwise assess tax against marketplace sellers or multichannel sellers for sales facilitated by a marketplace facilitator.

Section 3. No obligation to collect the sales and use tax required by this article may be applied retroactively. Responsibilities, duties and liabilities described in Section 5(C) of a marketplace facilitator, marketplace seller, or multichannel seller begin upon the earlier of when they became licensed to collect the Town's sales tax or when they became legally obligated to collect the Town's sales tax under Section 4.

Section 4. Codification of Amendments. The Town Clerk, as the codifier of the Town's Municipal Code, is hereby authorized to make such numerical and formatting changes as may be necessary to incorporate the provisions of this Ordinance within the Ridgway Municipal Code. The Town Clerk is authorized to correct, or approve the correction by the codifier, of any typographical error in the enacted regulations, provided that such correction shall not substantively change any provision of the regulations

adopted in this Ordinance. Such corrections may include spelling, reference, citation, enumeration, and grammatical errors.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each provision thereof, even though any one of the provisions might be declared unconstitutional or invalid. As used in this Section, the term “provision” means and includes any part, division, subdivision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase; the term “application” means and includes an application of an ordinance or any part thereof, whether considered or construed alone or together with another ordinance or ordinances, or part thereof, of the Town.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of final passage in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

Section 7. Safety Clause. The Town Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town of Ridgway, that it is promulgated for the health, safety and welfare of the public, and that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The Town Council further determines that the Ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

Section 8. No Existing Violation Affected. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, liability or right or affect any audit, suit, or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing which may have been incurred or obtained under any ordinance or provision hereby repealed or amended by this Ordinance. Any such ordinance or provision thereof so amended, repealed, or superseded by this Ordinance shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings and prosecutions, for the enforcement of such penalty, liability, or right, and for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits or proceedings, or prosecutions imposing, inflicting, or declaring such penalty or liability or enforcing such right, and shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proceedings, actions, hearings, and appeals pending before any court or administrative tribunal.

Section 9. Publication. The Town Clerk is ordered to publish this Ordinance in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

[Execution Page follows]

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING on May 12, 2021 and setting such public hearing for June 9, 2021 at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

ADOPTED on June 9, 2021.

BY:

ATTEST:

John Clark, Mayor

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney