

TOWN OF KILLIAN, LOUISIANA

Community Information Guide

Proposed 1% Sales and Use Tax



Election Information

Election Date: June 27

Residents of the Town of Killian will vote on whether to authorize a **1% municipal sales and use tax**.

If approved:

Start Date: October 1, 2026

Duration: 10 years





Estimated Annual Revenue: \$38,400

This tax would apply to retail sales, rentals, certain services, and the use or consumption of tangible personal property within the Town of Killian.



How the Revenue Would Be Used

Revenue generated from the proposed tax would be distributed to support key municipal services.

Community Priority	Allocation
 Public Safety & Disaster Management	50%
 Roads, Drainage & Infrastructure	25%
 Parks & Beautification	10%
 Other Legal Town Purposes	15%

These allocations are designed to support essential services, infrastructure maintenance, and community improvements.



Police Department Budget Overview

The Police Department represents a significant portion of municipal operations. The below budget is our best guess at what we would have to work with if a sales tax were to pass

Total Police Budget

\$149,918

Personnel Costs

Position / Expense	Annual Amount
Chief of Police Salary	\$36,000
Deputy Salary (40 hrs/week @ \$16/hr)	\$33,280
Payroll Taxes	\$6,000
MPERS Retirement Contributions	\$23,555
Total Personnel Costs:	\$98,835

Department Operating Costs

Expense	Annual Amount
Telephone & Utilities	\$3,900
Office Supplies	\$2,400
Law Enforcement Fees	\$3,000
Supplies	\$500
Insurance	\$9,000

Expense	Annual Amount
Legal Services	\$3,500
Fuel	\$10,800
Training & Conferences	\$750
Auto Equipment	10,800
Total Operating Costs:	\$44,650



Current Town Revenue Sources

The Town of Killian currently receives revenue from several sources:

Revenue Source Amount

Property Taxes	\$93,189
Franchise Fees	\$140,600
Other Revenue	\$33,646

Total Annual Revenue: \$280,143

Total Annual Expenses: 300,473

Currently, Killian **does not collect a municipal sales tax.**

Killian had the option to increase property taxes but we wanted to educate and inform people about the benefits of a sales tax. As you can see without the supplemental funds the town will be operating at a deficit and we will likely be forced to increase property tax mileage if the sales tax fails. The additional \$22,399 in property taxes would close the gap.



Sales Tax Comparison

Area	Total Sales Tax Rate
Killian	8.45%
Springfield	9.95%
Hammond	9.95%
Juban Crossing	10.95%

Killian currently collects **only state and parish sales tax**, while nearby municipalities collect additional local sales tax.



Community Context

Many Killian residents conduct retail shopping **outside town limits**, which means a large portion of sales tax paid by residents goes to other municipalities.

The estimated annual revenue projection of **\$38,400** is considered conservative because:

- Online purchases fluctuate
- Vehicle purchases vary annually
- Retail activity can change over time

Actual collections may be higher or lower depending on economic activity.



Population & Spending Comparison (2021)

Municipality	Population	Spending Per Resident
Killian	1,370	\$224.56
French Settlement	960	\$384.59
Springfield	562	\$1,169.10

These figures illustrate differences in municipal spending capacity among neighboring communities.



Looking Toward the Future

The proposed tax is intended to help the Town of Killian:



Provide a future for Killian



Support public safety services



Maintain roads and drainage infrastructure



Improve parks and community spaces



Provide resources for future municipal needs

STATEMENT BY ALDERMAN COREY BEASLEY

Alderman Corey Beasley here.

I wanted to make this post to help explain my view on the proposed sales tax. I understand people's hesitation toward taxes, and in many ways I share that sentiment. Before deciding to run for alderman, I was not very involved in government and didn't pay much attention to it. Since taking office, I've been able to see how things work from the inside and gain a better understanding, and I hope to share some of that here.

Let's Start With the Numbers

A 1% sales tax means \$1.00 for every \$100.00 spent.

The projected annual revenue from the proposed sales tax, based on previous years' brick-and-mortar sales in Killian (excluding online and vehicle sales), is approximately \$38,000 per year.

Killian has an estimated population between 1,100 and 1,340 residents. For this example, we'll use 1,100 residents.

\$38,000 divided by 1,100 people equals approximately \$34.54 per person per year — and that assumes all taxable sales are made by residents, which is not the case.

In reality, many purchases in Killian are made by visitors or people passing through town, meaning a portion of the revenue would come from outside of Killian.

Proposed Use of Revenue

- Public Safety & Emergency Management – 50% = \$19,000
 - Roads, Drainage & Infrastructure – 25% = \$9,500
 - Parks & Beautification – 10% = \$3,800
 - Other Legal Town Purposes – 15% = \$5,700
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Real-Life Example

I reviewed my own household spending for the month of March to help show what a 1% sales tax actually looks like.

- Amazon purchases: \$950.00 → 1% tax = \$9.50
 - Local stores (Dollar Store, Riverside Marina): \$714.00 → 1% tax = \$7.14
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Important Note

I recognize that some residents are on fixed incomes, and every dollar matters.

Many purchases made with SNAP benefits are not taxed on qualifying items. Additionally, there is a local nonprofit that operates a monthly food pantry for those in need.

Why This Matters

For the purpose of this post, I'm not including proceeds from the sale of the water system or potential grant funding. However, the town is actively pursuing grants and will continue seeking responsible ways to maximize available resources.

Currently, projected annual revenue is \$280,143.00 and projected expenditures are \$300,473.00.

The issue is not simply whether Killian can survive financially today. The bigger question is whether we are preparing Killian for tomorrow.

This proposal is about the future of our town.

It is about making sure Killian has the resources needed to improve infrastructure, maintain drainage, support public safety, enforce ordinances, and responsibly manage growth as our community changes over time.

Without additional revenue, there is very limited flexibility for projects that move Killian forward or prepare us for future needs.

Growth is coming whether we are prepared for it or not. The question is whether we plan ahead and manage that growth responsibly now, or wait until problems become larger and more expensive to address later.

This administration remains committed to transparency and responsible planning for the future of Killian.

Comparison to Nearby Towns

- Killian current tax rate: 8.45%
- Springfield: 9.95%
- Hammond: 9.95%

If the proposed 1% tax is approved, Killian would be at 9.45%, still below many surrounding areas.

Why I Support the Tax

Since taking office, I've learned a great deal, and I continue to learn.

This proposal is not about spending money recklessly or raising taxes for the sake of it. It is about making sure Killian is positioned for long-term success.

Communities like Bedico, Robert, and Watson were once much smaller and quieter than they are today. Growth changed those towns dramatically.

Planning ahead now helps ensure Killian grows in a way that preserves what people love about it while still improving quality of life for residents.

Benefits of the Proposed Tax

- Helps fund qualified police officers
- Supports enforcement of ordinances, including blighted property cleanup

- Helps fund a groundskeeper or maintenance worker to keep the town clean
 - Expands opportunities for matching grants
 - Allows for pothole repairs
 - Supports ditch maintenance and drainage improvements
 - Improves infrastructure
 - Enables long-term planning and responsible growth
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Final Thought

This proposal is not about raising taxes simply to raise taxes.

It is about giving Killian the tools and resources needed to remain safe, clean, financially stable, and prepared for the future.

The goal is not simply to maintain where we are today, but to help ensure Killian continues moving in the right direction for years to come.

STATEMENT BY ALDERMAN WESLEY BIGNAR

Good evening, everyone — please take a moment to read this message,

Before serving as an Alderman for the great Town of Killian, I was and still am a citizen of this community, just like all of you. I chose to make Killian my forever home, where I am raising my family and investing in the future of our town.

In my younger years, I proudly served in the military, where I learned the values of selfless service, loyalty, duty, respect, honor, and integrity. Those values continue to guide me every day as I serve this community. My commitment has always been to put others before myself and to work toward a stronger future for the generations to come.

Since taking office, I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the challenges and opportunities facing our town. One thing has become very clear: the people of Killian care deeply about this community and want to see it move in a positive direction. For that, I am incredibly grateful.

Today, I want to speak openly about the proposed 1% sales tax. Several meetings ago, the council had the option to increase property taxes. As a newly elected board, we believed it was important to carefully explore every possible option before making that kind of decision. After much discussion, the proposed sales tax emerged as a more balanced approach to creating long-term financial sustainability for our town.

This proposal would help provide the resources needed to improve and maintain our community while sharing the responsibility not only among residents, but also among visitors who enjoy and support our beautiful town. Unlike a property tax increase, this approach reduces the direct burden on homeowners.

I also want to assure the citizens of Killian that this administration is committed to responsible financial management. The people spoke clearly during last year's election, and I believe that message was about accountability, transparency, and a desire for a fresh start. I am proud to serve alongside a dedicated council and a Mayor who works tirelessly for the future of this town. Mayor Caleb Atwell shares the same passion and vision for building a stronger Killian, and I am proud to work beside him.

Many people ask why we cannot simply rely on grants or existing funds. The reality is that many grants require matching funds and proof of long-term financial sustainability. Without a stable financial foundation, we limit our ability to pursue opportunities that could greatly benefit our community and our children.

This conversation is about more than taxes — it is about investing in our future. It is about creating opportunities, improving our town, and ensuring that future generations inherit a community they can be proud of.

Whether you support this proposal or not, I believe we can all agree on one thing: Killian is worth fighting for. We may not always agree on every issue, but when we come together as neighbors with a shared purpose, our community becomes stronger.

Voter turnout has shown that when issues directly impact our town, our citizens step up and make their voices heard. I encourage everyone to stay informed, stay engaged, and most importantly, participate in the upcoming election.

Please mark your calendars for June 27, 2026, and make your voice heard at the polls as we continue working together toward a brighter future for the Town of Killian.

Thank you all so much for being great neighbors, and trusting in me to serve our community.

Alderman Wesley Bignar
Town of Killian

STATEMENT BY MAYOR CALEB ATWELL

As a proud parent of two young boys with deep roots in Killian, I am proud to work alongside other members of the younger generation who have deep roots in this town who stood up to fix our broken community. We put this tax on the ballot because our constituents asked for it, and it is the key to securing our town's future.

Here is how the proposed tax will benefit Killian:

Shifting the Burden: The tax will primarily be paid by non-residents at Riverside Marina and the campground. This allows us to shift some of the tax burden away from local property taxes.

Keeping Up With Inflation: To compete for state grants and operate the town, our revenue needs to account for inflation. In 2009, revenues were \$286,777 with expenses of \$340,898. Today, projected 2026 revenues are \$280,143 against expenses of \$300,473

Benefiting the Town: While I support local events like the Tickfaw 200 and the car show, the town currently sees no direct revenue from them. This measure ensures Killian benefits from the visitors it hosts.

We didn't raise property taxes last year because we believe in the residents of Killian and we wanted to give the town a choice to completely change how we operate for the better. At the end of the day no matter what happens the people have the ultimate power here.

Sincerely Mayor Caleb Atwell