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Comptroller Susan Combs Delivers \$488 Million in December Sales Tax Allocations to Local Governments

Final 2008 Allocation Brings Local Sales Tax Revenue to \$5.9 Billion This Year

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today said the state collected \$1.98 billion in sales tax in November, up 4.7 percent compared to November 2007.

“For the first three months of the state’s 2009 fiscal year, state sales tax collections have continued to grow,” Combs said. “However, the increase is less than in the past three years, and collections from important sectors such as retail trade and construction have declined slightly.”

The Comptroller sent cities, counties, special purpose districts and transit systems their final sales tax allocations of 2008 — \$488 million, up 9.2 percent compared to last December. Despite the economic slowdown, Combs said local governments collected \$5.9 billion in sales tax this year, 6.3 percent more than in 2007.

Combs sent Texas cities December sales tax allocations of \$328.5 million, up 9.5 percent compared to December 2007. City sales tax allocations during calendar year 2008 totaled \$4 billion, up 5.6 percent compared to 2007. Counties’ December sales tax allocations totaled \$30.8 million, up 11.8 percent compared to December 2007. Counties received \$365.8 million in sales tax during calendar year 2008, up 7.9 percent compared to last year.

Ten local transit systems received December sales tax allocations of \$109.7 million, a 5.1 percent increase over December 2007. Sales tax allocations to transit systems this year totaled \$1.3 billion, up 6.2 percent compared to the 2007 total. December sales tax allocations of \$19.2 million went to 150 special purpose taxing districts, an increase of 26.4 percent compared to last December. Special purpose districts received \$215.1 million during 2008, up 19.1 percent compared to 2007.

For details of December sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the *Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports* on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

The next local sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Jan.9.

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