What would be the new sales tax rate required for the City of Sarasota to receive an additional $5.5 million from sales tax?

The Formula

Florida law authorizes the relevant tax at the **county** level. Thus, an additional surtax would apply throughout Sarasota County—not just within City limits—and would require the appropriate County authorization/referendum process. The City's gain depends on how countywide proceeds are allocated among the School Board, County, and municipalities. Existing County code describes a framework in which 25% goes to the School Board and the remaining proceeds are divided among the County and municipalities according to population shares, subject to the governing interlocal agreement.

So the basic formula is:

$$\text{Additional City revenue} = \text{Countywide taxable sales base} \times \text{New surtax rate} \times \text{City distribution share}$$

Solve for the required added rate:

$$\text{New surtax rate} = \frac{\$5{,}500{,}000}{\text{Countywide taxable sales base} \times \text{City distribution share}}$$

Using 2024 figures, what would be the new rate

Countywide taxable sales base

> Florida's EDR FY 2024–25 Local Discretionary Sales Surtax report lists an estimated **$91,951,884** distribution for Sarasota County/BOCC, representing **69.718964%** of the local-government share. (https://edr.state.fl.us/content/local-government/data/county-municipal/LDSS24-25.pdf)
>
> Those figures indicate the total annual proceeds generated by the 1% surtax were roughly:
>
> $$\$91.952\text{M} \div 69.718964\% \approx \$131.89\text{M}$$
>
> Since the levy is 1%, the implied annual taxable transaction base for the county is:
>
> $$\$131.89\text{M} \div 1\% \approx \$13.19\text{B}$$

City of Sarasota share

County projections for the 2025–2039 renewal estimated approximately **$186 million** for the City of Sarasota out of $1.96 billion in total countywide surtax proceeds:

$$\$186\text{M} \div \$1.96\text{B} = 9.49\%$$

New rate

Using the approximate $13.19 billion countywide annual surtax base and the City's 9.5% total-proceeds share:

$$\text{Necessary rate} = \frac{\$5.5\text{M}}{\$13.19\text{B} \times 9.5\%} \approx 0.439\%$$

That would suggest a countywide surtax increase of roughly **0.44 percentage points**, taking the combined rate from 7.0% to about **7.44%**, *if* the same distribution structure applied and taxable activity did not change.