

## Montgomery County ups threshold for new business tax abatements

By Catherine Dominguez, Staff writer    Published 1:45 p.m. CDT, Thursday, November 15, 2018



Photo: Jason Fochtman, Staff Photographer / Houston Chronicle

Assistant County Attorney B.D. Griffin presented changes to the county tax abatement policy Tuesday.

Tax abatement for businesses making less than a \$4 million investment in Montgomery County is no longer be available. County commissioners approved the change to the county's tax abatement policy during its regular meeting Tuesday.

In September, the court agreed to form a committee to research potential changes in the program. The committee included commissioners Mike Meador and Charlie Riley along with Assistant County Attorney B. D. Griffin and Tax Assessor Collector Tammy McRae.

The committee also recommended the requirement for jobs be changed as well. Now the policy reduces the required number of jobs to 10 jobs for new businesses. Griffin said the committee took into consideration new technology which is reducing work force numbers across the nation. "I think it is a good plan," Meador said.

During September's meeting, other commissioners also supported the changes in the policy. "Why incentivize them on something they are going to do," Precinct 4 Commissioner Jim Clark said in a previous article. "It's an expansion, we are not trying to attract them here."

Meador agrees and added the changes have been needed for some time. "I think this would be a good change and I think it is time," he said. "It shouldn't be there as a just a bonus," Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack said. "It really should be a differentiator between that business coming to Montgomery County or Fort Bend and Harris counties."