

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF
Goliad County
State of Texas

Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria

The purpose of this document is to reauthorize, clarify or re-establish previously adopted guidelines and criteria for purposes of adopting a uniform policy of tax abatement, and to establish a competitive economic environment to attract commercial investment to Goliad County. The use of tax abatement as a tool to encourage a competitive commercial policy will server to foster a long-term positive environment for economic development within Goliad County.

In order to be eligible for the designation of a reinvestment zone and receive tax abatement for improvements within that reinvestment zone, the planned improvement:

1. Must be reasonably expected to have an increase in positive net economic benefit to Goliad County of at least Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) over the life of the abatement, computed to include (but not limited to) new sustaining payroll and /or capital improvement. By “net” economic benefit, it is intended to reflect the benefit realized on the Goliad County ad valorem tax base less any costs incurred by Goliad County to facilitate the applicant’s proposed improvement, such as road infrastructure, use of right-of-way, or other similar costs. The creation of new jobs will also factor into the decision to grant an abatement. jobs (The application should identify the number and type of temporary and new jobs, along with temporary and permanent annual payrolls, as well as average annual salary for each category of employee); and
2. Must not be expected to solely or primarily have the effect of merely transferring employment from one area of Goliad County to another.

In addition to the criteria set forth above, the Goliad County Commissioners Court reserves the right to negotiate a tax abatement agreement in order to compete favorably with other communities for the Applicant’s improvements.

Only projects that increase the fair market value of the property directly resultant from the development, redevelopment, and improvement specified in the contract will be eligible for abatement and then only to the extent that such increase exceeds any reduction in the fair market value of the other property of the Applicant located within the Affected Jurisdiction creating the reinvestment zone.

All abatement contracts will be for a term no longer than allowed by law.

It is the goal of Goliad County to utilize tax abatements on terms and conditions beneficial to the economic interests of the residents of Goliad County, to attract capital investment in Goliad County' and to serve the beneficial interests of other Affected Jurisdictions having taxing authority within the proposed reinvestment zone. However, nothing herein shall limit the discretion of the Goliad County Commissioners Court to consider, adopt, modify or decline any tax abatement request.

These policies and guidelines become effective on the date subscribed below, and shall at all times be kept current with regard to the needs of Goliad County and reflective of the official views of the County Commissioners Court of Goliad County. Therefore, in accordance with state law, and to facilitate this section, the Commissioners Court shall review and reauthorize, modify or amend these policies and guidelines every two years.

The adoption of these guidelines and criteria by the Goliad County Commissioners Court does not:

1. Limit the discretion of the Goliad County Commissioners Court body to decide whether or not to enter into a specific tax abatement agreement;
2. Limit the discretion of the Goliad County Commissioners Court to delegate to its employees the authority to determine whether or not the Goliad County Commissioners Court should consider a particular application or request for tax abatement;
3. The mere filing of an application in conformity with these criteria and guidelines does not vest or create any property interest, contract, or other legal right in any person filing such an application to have the Goliad County Commissioners Court grant any such application or request for tax abatement. The Goliad County Commissioners Court expressly reserves all rights vested by law to consider, approve, or decline such application for any reason within the sole discretion of the Commissioners Court.

Section 1 Definitions

“Abatement” means the full or partial exemption from ad valorem taxes of certain a portion of the appraised value of property in a reinvestment zone designated by Goliad County for economic development purposes.

“Affected jurisdiction” means Goliad County and any taxing authority having jurisdiction over land located within the proposed reinvestment zone and also located within Goliad County that levies ad valorem taxes upon and provides services to property located within the proposed or existing reinvestment zone designated by Goliad County.

“Agreement” means a contractual agreement for tax abatement between a Property Owner and/or Lessee and Goliad County.

“Applicant” means any person, including business entities, who file an application in conformity with these guidelines seeking tax abatement from Goliad County, Texas.

“Base year value” means the assessed value on the eligible property as of January 1 preceding the execution of the agreement, plus any agreed upon value of eligible property improvements made after January 1, but before the execution of the Agreement.

“Eligible facilities” means new, expanded, or modernized buildings and structures, including fixed machinery and equipment, which is reasonably likely as a result of granting abatement to contribute to the retention or expansion of primary employment or to attract major investment in the reinvestment zone that would be a benefit to the property and that would contribute to the economic development of Goliad County, but does not include deferred maintenance of existing facilities. Hotels are not excluded from this definition of eligible facilities.

For purposes of this definition:

“Expansion” means the addition of building structures, machinery, equipment, or payroll for purposes of increasing production capacity.

“Facility” means property improvement completed or in process of construction which when complete will comprise an interconnect whole capable of increasing the ad valorem property value of the land or leasehold estate and providing employment within the county, and further means

products, buildings and structures, including machinery and equipment, the primary purpose of which is or will be the manufacture of tangible goods or materials or the processing of such goods or materials by physical or chemical change, including the generation of electrical energy or digital information or computer based information.

“Facility Owner” means the owner of the facility constructed within a reinvestment zone, if not the property owner.

“Ineligible facilities” means existing facilities which are intended to primarily provide goods or services to residents for existing businesses located in Goliad County, such as, but not limited to, restaurants and retail sales establishments.

“Modernization” means a complete or partial demolition of facilities and the complete or partial reconstruction or installation of a facility of similar or expanded production capacity. Modernization may result from the construction, alteration, or installation of buildings, structures, machinery, or equipment, or both.

“New facility” means property previously undeveloped which is placed into service by means other than or in conjunction with expansion or modernization.

“Other Basic Industry” means buildings and structures including fixed machinery and equipment not elsewhere described, used or to be used for the production of products or services, which serve a market primarily outside of Goliad County, resulting in the creation of new permanent jobs bringing in new wealth.

“Productive life” means the number of years a property improvement is expected to be in service as a function and operational facility. The term includes useful life or economic life of a facility.

“Property Owner” means the title owner to real property subject to any tax abatement agreement, or a Lessee of the owner responsible for leasehold improvements to the real property.

Section 2

Abatement Authorized for Development Goals

1. Eligible facilities: Upon application, eligible facilities as defined herein may be considered for tax abatement as hereinafter provided.

2. Creation of New Values: Abatement may only be granted for the additional value of eligible property improvements made subsequent to and as specified in an abatement agreement between Goliad County and the property owner or applicant, including a Lessee, subject to such limitations as Goliad County may require at its sole discretion.

3. New and existing facilities: Abatement may be granted for the additional value of eligible property improvements made subsequent to and specified in an abatement agreement between Goliad County and the Property Owner or Lessee, subject to such limitations as Goliad County may require at its sole discretion.

4. Eligible property: Abatement may be extended to the value of buildings, structures, fixed machinery and equipment, site improvements and related fixed improvements necessary to the operation and administration of the facility.

5. Ineligible Property: The following types of property shall be fully taxable and ineligible for tax abatement: land, supplies, tools, furnishings, and other forms of movable personal property, housing, deferred maintenance, property to be rented or leased except as provided in Section 2, property which has a productive life of less than ten years, but does not include spare parts associated with eligible facilities; property owned or used by the State of Texas or its political subdivisions or by any organization owned, operated or directed by a political subdivision of the State of Texas; or any other property for which abatement is not allowed by state law.

6. Owned/leased facilities: If a leased facility is permitted by state law to be granted abatement, the abatement agreement shall be applicable to the taxable value of the leased improvement, and where appropriate, may be executed with both the Lessor and the Lessee, but where the land owner has executed a lease with the leaseholder, the Lessee alone may seek tax abatement on the value of its leasehold interest in the improvements to the realty.

7. Economic Qualifications: In order to be eligible for designation as a reinvestment zone and receive tax abatement, the planned improvement:

- a. Must be reasonably expected to have an increase in positive net economic benefit to Goliad County of at least Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) over the life of the abatement, computed to include (but not limited to) new sustaining payroll and /or capital improvement.; and

b. Must not be expected to solely or primarily have the effect of merely transferring employment from one area of Goliad County to another.

c. The applicant must demonstrate sufficient experience in the industry relevant to the application, and sufficient financial capacity to perform the project as proposed.

8. Standards for Tax Abatement/Development Goals: The following factors, among others as may be determined to be relevant by the Goliad County Commissioners Court, may be considered in determining whether to grant tax abatement, but this list is illustrative and not exclusive of the matters the Commissioners Court of Goliad County may consider:

a. Value of existing improvements, if any;

b. Type and value of proposed improvements;

c. Productive life of proposed improvements; Number of existing jobs to be retained by proposed improvements;

d. Number and type of new jobs to be created by proposed improvements;

e. Amount of local payroll to be created;

f. Whether the new jobs to be created will be filled by persons residing or projected to reside within affected jurisdiction;

g. Must be reasonably expected to have an increase in positive net economic benefit to Goliad County of at least Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) over the life of the abatement, computed to include (but not limited to) new sustaining payroll and /or capital improvement.

h. The costs to be incurred by Goliad County to provide infrastructure directly resulting from the proposed new improvements;

9. The amount of ad valorem taxes to be paid to Goliad County during the abatement period considering:

a. the existing values;

b. the percentage of new value to be abated;

c. the difference between current tax revenues being paid upon the relevant property and under the proposed abatement agreement.

d. the length of the abatement period; and

d. the anticipated depreciated remaining taxable value of the improvements after expiration of the abatement period.

10. The population growth of Goliad County that occurs directly as a result of new improvements;

11. The types and values of public improvements, if any, to be made by Applicant seeking abatement;

12. Whether the proposed improvements compete with existing businesses to the detriment of the local economy or employment levels;

13. The impact on the business opportunities of existing businesses;

14. The potential for attraction of other new businesses to the area;

15. The overall compatibility with the existing zoning ordinances or regulations and comprehensive economic planning for the area;

15. Whether the project has provisions intended to protect the general health, safety and welfare of Goliad County residents who may be impacted by the project, specifically whether the planned improvements include setbacks, visual screening, noise level limitations or other accommodations which might be reasonably expected of similar projects.

16. Whether the project obtains all necessary permits from the applicable environmental agencies. Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any applicable state or federal regulations will be required.

Each eligible facility shall be reviewed on its merits utilizing the factors provided above. After such review, abatement may be denied entirely or may be granted to the extent deemed appropriate after full evaluation.

Construction in Progress. If a qualifying facility has not been placed in service within one year after execution of the abatement Agreement, the applicant may apply for a

one-year extension of the term of abatement, to be granted or denied in accordance with the Agreement. Said extension must be applied for prior to the expiration of the one-year anniversary of execution of the abatement Agreement.

Denial of Abatement: Neither a reinvestment zone nor abatement agreement shall be authorized if it is determined that:

1. There would be substantial adverse effect on the provision of government services or tax base;
2. The applicant has insufficient financial capacity to perform the obligations of an abatement agreement;
3. Planned or potential use of the property would constitute a hazard to public health, safety or morals;
4. Violation of other codes or laws; or
5. Any other reason deemed appropriate by the Goliad County Commissioners Court.

Taxability: From the execution of the abatement to the end of the agreement period, taxes shall be payable as follows:

1. The value of ineligible property as provided in Section 2. (5) shall be fully taxable; and
2. The base year value of existing eligible property as determined by the Chief Appraiser on January 1 of each year shall be determined, and the terms of the Abatement Agreement, if any, will determine to what extent such property values will be taxable and at what rate during the term of any abatement agreement.

The residual, depreciated value of eligible property shall be fully taxable at the end of the abatement period.

Section 3 Application

1. Any present or potential owner of taxable property in Goliad County may request the creation of a reinvestment zone and tax abatement by filing a written application with the County Judge.

2. The application shall consist of a written request for tax abatement, accompanied by:

a. An analysis of the net economic impact such an abatement will have on Goliad County, including:

b. Estimated tax revenues annually for the term of the requested abatement, taking into account any requested abatement.

c. A comparison between an abatement of taxes and any requested “payment in lieu of taxes” (PILOT) in terms of benefit to Goliad County over the proposed term of the abatement period.

d. A declaration of the depreciation method to be applied to the investment and a statement of the expected residual taxable value of the proposed project at the end of the abatement term requested, and the remaining taxable life expectancy of the proposed project.

e. A declaration that remediation of the property to its former state has been anticipated, and that such remediation will not result in the imposition of recovery costs upon the County or underlying land owners where the project is based upon a leasehold interest.

3. A general description of the proposed use and the general nature and extent of the modernization, expansion or new improvements to be undertaken.

4. A descriptive list and approximate taxable value of the improvements which will be a part of the facility;

5. A property description, including a legal description of the property, which may be satisfied by a list of the property parcel identification number used by the Goliad County Appraisal District, the title owner to the parcel so identified, and the acreage within each parcel so identified.

6. A map of the proposed reinvestment zone, showing a detailed map of the reinvestment zone, including any county or state-maintained roads providing access to the land to be improved within the reinvestment zone, together with an inset map of where, within Goliad County, the proposed reinvestment zone is located. Any affected jurisdictions with taxing authority over land included in the proposed reinvestment zone should be identified as well. The map should be presented in PDF and JPG formats, suitable for publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. The use of color should not interfere with the legibility of the map.

7. A time schedule for undertaking and completing the planned improvements. In the case of modernization, a statement of the assessed value of the facility, separately stated for real and personal property, shall be given for the tax year immediately preceding the application. The application form may require such financial and other information as the County deems appropriate for evaluating the financial capacity and other factors of the applicant.

8. Certification from the Goliad County Appraisal District verifying that no taxes are past due on applicant's property located in the proposed reinvestment zone

9. Disclosure of any environmental permits required or additional environmental impacts.

10. In the case of modernization, a statement of the assessed value of the current facility, separately stated for real and personal property, shall be given for the tax year immediately preceding the Application. The County may require such financial and other information as deemed appropriate for evaluating the financial capacity and other factors pertaining to the Applicant, to be attached to the Application.

11. All checks in payment of the administrative fee shall be made payable to Goliad County. In addition to the application fee, which shall be applied to any fee charged by legal or financial analysis of the application, the applicant shall also agree to pay reasonable consulting and attorney fees as may be incurred by Goliad County in the examination of the application as well as the preparation and negotiation of any tax abatement agreement. Such fee reimbursement shall not exceed \$10,000.00.

12. Goliad County shall give notice as provided by the Property Tax Code, i.e. written notice, to the presiding officer of the governing body of each taxing unit in which property to be included within the proposed reinvestment zone and subject of the tax abatement agreement is located not later than the seventh (7th) day before the

public hearing and publication in a newspaper of general circulation within such taxing Affected Jurisdiction not later than the thirtieth (30th) day before the public hearing. Before acting upon the Application, Goliad County shall, through public hearing, afford the Applicant, the designated representative of any governing body referenced hereinabove, and members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide testimony why the abatement should or should not be granted.

13. If a city within Goliad County designates a reinvestment zone within its corporate limits and enters into or proposes to enter into an abatement agreement with a present or potential owner of taxable property, such present or potential owner of taxable property may request tax abatement by Goliad County, and shall follow the same application process described in Section 3, et seq, hereof. No other notice or hearing shall be required except compliance with the Open Meetings Act, unless the Commissioners Court deems them necessary in a particular case.

14. Variance. Although a variance is not favored, exceptional circumstances may support a request for variance from the provisions of Section II, in which case such request for a variance may be made in an application or other written form to the Commissioners' Court. Such request shall include all the items listed in Section 3(B) and may include a complete description of the circumstances which prompt the applicant to request a variance. The approval process for a variance request shall be identical to that for a standard application and may be supplemented by such additional requirements as may be deemed necessary by the Commissioners' Court. To the full extent permitted by applicable law, the Commissioners' Court shall have the authority to enter into an abatement agreement with terms and conditions that vary from the terms and conditions in these Guidelines, but only so long as the Commissioners' Court determines that such variances are in the best interests of Goliad County. Any terms or conditions contained in an abatement Agreement approved by the Commissioners' Court that vary from the terms and conditions in these Guidelines shall automatically be deemed to have been granted an approved variance by the Commissioners' Court, shall be binding and enforceable as agreed to in the abatement Agreement, and shall control in the event of any inconsistency or conflict with these Guidelines. A variance granted to any applicant shall not be deemed a variance for any subsequent applicant.

15. Confidentiality Required. Information that is provided to the County in connection with an application or request for Tax Abatement and that describes the specific processes or business activities to be conducted or the equipment or other property to be located on the property for which Tax Abatement is sought may be deemed as confidential and not subject to public disclosure only if specifically identified by the Applicant, and segregated from the remaining portions of the

Application. Once the Tax Abatement Agreement is executed, all attachments to the Abatement Agreement shall become public. All information in the custody of a taxing unit after the Agreement is executed is Public Record, and not confidential.

16. A \$1,000.00 non-refundable application fee, payable to Goliad county, and delivered with the signed application in the office of the County Judge.

Section 4 Agreement

The Commissioners Court of Goliad County, after review, shall approve or deny an application for tax abatement, and if granted, shall execute an agreement with the Applicant or Owner of the facility and/or Leasehold interest, which shall:

1. Include a list of the kind, number, and location of all proposed improvements to the property and if this is not defined at the time of the agreement, then to be supplemented after construction of the facilities;
2. Provide for reasonable access to and authorize inspection of the property by the affected jurisdiction to ensure compliance with the agreement
3. Limit the use of the property consistent with the affected jurisdiction's developmental goals as stated in Section 2 of the Goliad County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria;
4. Provide for recapturing property tax revenues that are lost if the applicant/owner fails to make improvements as provided by the agreement;
5. Include a summary of each term agreed upon with the property owner and require the applicant/owner of the facility to annually certify compliance with the terms of the agreement to each taxing unit and any leasehold agreement with land owners; and
6. Allow the affected jurisdiction to cancel the agreement after notice of default and opportunity to cure if the applicant or owner fails to comply with the terms of the agreement.
 - a. The owner of the facility and/or Lessee shall also agree to the following:

- i. A specified number of permanent full-time jobs at facility shall be created, and the owner and Lessee shall make reasonable efforts to employ persons who are residents of Goliad County in such jobs provided, however, that there shall be no obligation to employ residents who are not:
 - ii. equally or more qualified than nonresident applicants;
 - iii. available for employment on terms and / or salaries comparable to those required by nonresident applicants; or
 - iv. iv. able to become qualified with 72 hours training provided by Owner.

b. Each person employed in such job shall perform a portion, if not all, of their work in Goliad County.

7. Applicant shall agree that it and its contractors, if any, will use reasonably commercial efforts to maximize its use of goods and services available through Goliad County businesses in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the improvements and the project; provided, however, that there shall be no requirement to use goods and services provided by Goliad County residents that are not:

- a. of similar quality to those provided by nonresidents; or
- b. made available on terms and conditions (including pricing) comparable to those offered by nonresidents. Comparable price shall be defined as less than or equal to 105% of the nonresident price for equivalent quality, conditions and terms.

8. Applicant or its construction contractor, if any, shall designate a coordinator of local services who will act as liaison between any individuals, businesses, and contractors residing or doing business in Goliad County who are interested in obtaining information about providing goods or services related to the construction of the project.

9. Additionally, Applicant or its construction contractor, if any, shall advertise in local newspapers in Goliad County for local contractors to perform work on the construction of the project.

10. Applicant shall agree to maintain a viable presence (as below defined) within the reinvestment zone for a period of time, as set by the Goliad County Commissioners Court, not to exceed twenty (20) years from the date that the abatement agreement first takes effect. For purposes hereof, "Maintain a Viable Presence" means (i) the operation of the Eligible Facilities, as the same may from time to time be expanded, upgraded, improved, modified, changed, remodeled, repaired, restored, reconstructed, reconfigured and/or reengineered, and (ii) the retention of not fewer than the number of Qualifying Jobs as defined by Texas Tax Code Section 313.021(3)(E) to be located and performed, in part, within Goliad County.

11. On May 1st of each year that the agreement shall be in effect, Applicant shall certify to the County Judge of Goliad County, and to the governing body of each taxing unit within the proposed reinvestment zone, that Applicant is in compliance with each applicable term set forth above.

12. Such agreement shall normally be executed within sixty (60) days after the Applicant has forwarded all necessary information and documentation to the Commissioners Court.

Section 5 Recapture

1. In the event that the company or individual:

- a. Allows its ad valorem taxes owed Goliad County to become delinquent and fails to timely and properly follow the legal procedures for their protest and/or contest; or
- b. Violates any of the terms and conditions of the abatement agreement and fails to cure during the cure period;
- c. The agreement then may be terminated and all taxes previously abated by virtue of the agreement will be recaptured and paid within thirty (30) days of the termination.

2. Should the Goliad County Commissioners Court determine, in its sole discretion, that the company or individual is in default according to the terms and conditions of its agreement, Goliad County shall notify the company or individual in writing at the address stated in the agreement, and if such is not cured within thirty

(30) days from the date of such notice (cure period) then the agreement may be terminated.

3. In the event that the applicant's facility is completed and begins producing products or services, but subsequently discontinues producing a product or service for any reason for a period of one year during the abatement period, other than because of fire, explosion, or other casualty, accident, or natural disaster, then the agreement shall terminate and so shall the abatement of the taxes for the calendar year during which the applicant's facility no longer produces. The taxes otherwise abated for that calendar year shall be paid to the County within sixty (60) days from the date of termination.

Section 6 Administration

1. The Chief Appraiser of the Goliad County Appraisal District will annually determine an assessment of the real and personal property comprising the reinvestment zone. Each year, the company or individual receiving abatement shall furnish the Appraiser with such information as may be necessary for the abatement. Once value has been established, the Chief Appraiser will notify the Commissioners Court of Goliad County of the amount of the assessment.

2. The Agreement shall stipulate that employees and/or designated representatives of Goliad County will have access to the Applicant's facilities within the reinvestment zone during the term of the abatement to inspect the facility to determine if the terms and conditions of the Agreement are being met. All inspections will be made only after the giving of reasonable notice and will only be conducted in a manner as to not unreasonably interfere with the construction and/or operation of the facility. All inspections will be made with one or more representatives of the Applicant, and in accordance with its safety standards.

3. Upon completion of construction, the designated representative of Goliad County shall annually evaluate each facility receiving abatement to ensure compliance with the Agreement. A formal report shall be made to the Commissioners Court.

4. Timely Filing. The County shall timely file, with the appropriate person, agency, department, or board of the State of Texas, all information required by the Tax Code.

Section 7 Assignment

1. Abatement may be transferred and assigned by the holder to a new owner or lessee of the same facility only upon the written approval of the Commissioners Court of Goliad County. Such approval is subject to the financial capacity of the assignee and provided that all conditions and obligations in the Abatement Agreement are guaranteed by the execution of a new contractual Abatement Agreement with Goliad County. No assignment or transfer shall be approved if the parties to the existing agreement, the new owner or new lessee, are liable to any Affected Jurisdiction for outstanding taxes or other obligations.

2. An assignment shall not serve to extend the termination date of the abatement Agreement with the original Applicant, owner or lessee. An assignment may not alter venue provisions of the original agreement

3. Approval of an assignment in conformity with this section shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 8 Venue

Any abatement agreement shall be conditioned upon venue for any disputes which may arise under the Abatement Agreement to be retained in courts of appropriate jurisdiction within Goliad County, Texas, or appeals to Texas courts of appellate jurisdiction, or the United States District Court having jurisdiction in Goliad County, Texas.

Section 9 Sunset Provision

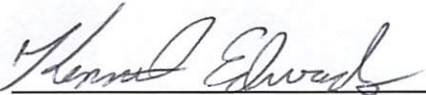
These guidelines and criteria are effective upon the date of their adoption and will remain in force for two years unless amended by three quarters vote of the Commissioners Court of Goliad County, at which time all reinvestment zones and tax abatement agreements created pursuant to these provisions will be reviewed to determine whether the goals have been achieved. Based on the review, the guidelines and criteria will be modified, renewed, or eliminated.

GUIDELINES ADOPTED September 23, 2024

GOLIAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



COUNTY JUDGE



PRECINCT 1 COMMISSIONER



PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER



PRECINCT 3 COMMISSIONER



PRECINCT 4 COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:




COUNTY CLERK

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