



THE TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALES TAX

A PRIMER FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

2025-2026 UPDATE

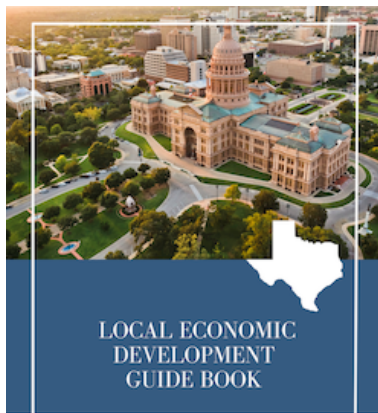
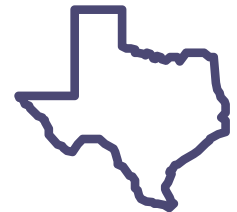


BACKGROUND OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALES TAX

The economic development sales tax was created in 1989 to give smaller Texas communities the financial resources to create top-flight economic development programs. Today, the tax is the undisputed workhorse of local economic development efforts, serving as the backbone of economic development programs in more than 600 communities and 700 economic development corporations (EDCs) across the state.

During the 89th Texas Legislative Session (2025), the TEDC once again successfully advocated against bills that would have eroded the main purpose of the economic development sales tax -- that is to help create primary jobs and enhance the overall economic vitality of communities.

For more than 30 years, the economic development sales tax has helped bring billions of dollars of new investment to Texas... the most important difference-maker in the history of economic development in our state.



Request a copy of the TEDC's Local Economic Development Guide Book or download from the TEDC's website

The economic development sales tax is the state's largest and most effective local revenue source for economic development. The best way to protect the tax for years to come is to use it with caution, care, and common sense.

The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) will advocate, educate, and inform economic development professionals, local officials, and lawmakers on developments related to the tax, including best practices. The TEDC will continue to offer state-mandated training for local economic development officials, which provides the tools and knowledge needed to develop and implement effective economic development programs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE THIRTY YEARS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALES TX

In 2020 the TEDC commissioned The Perryman Group to research the economic impact of the economic development sales tax over the past three decades. Dr. Perryman's findings include:

- **Over twenty (20) percent of the net new jobs generated in Texas over the past 30 years have involved efforts funded by the economic development sales tax.**
- **A primary reason for Texas' economic success is tireless efforts by local economic development professionals across the state who rely on funds provided by the sales tax for economic development to compete for quality corporate locations, expansions and retention.**
- **The Perryman Group estimates that the fiscal benefits to the State of Texas from projects facilitated by the sales tax by economic development include \$7.1 billion per year, with \$4.9 billion per year to local taxing entities across the state.**
- **Every dollar in economic development sales tax paid by taxpayers yields \$131.84 in output and \$82.42 in income.**

Timeline of Economic Development Sales Tax Legislation

1979

Development Corporation Act passed authorizing cities to create economic development corporations

1989

4A tax authorized to provide funding source for recruiting and retaining manufacturing and industrial projects.

1991

4B tax authorized for broader community development projects.

1997

State reporting requirement enacted. 4A corporations authorized to undertake 4B projects with voter approval.

1999

Allowable 4A and 4B projects expanded to include targeted infrastructure, job creation and retention, job training, and educational facilities.

2001

R&D facilities added as eligible projects. Training requirements established.

2005

Restrictions on retail incentives removed for certain communities. Certain sewer utilities, site improvements and military projects added as eligible projects. Call centers added to definition of primary jobs.

2007

Light or commuter rail, or motor buses added to eligible projects. Hangars, airport maintenance and repair and air cargo facilities, related infrastructure located on or adjacent to an airport added to eligible 4B projects.

2009

Statute re-codified into Local Government Code, effective 4/1/09.

2015

HB 157 passed authorizing a city to hold an election to reallocate sales tax revenue within the two percent local sales tax cap.

2019

Deadline to file annual reports with the Texas Comptroller changed to April 1.



Pursuant to the economic development sales tax law, most Type A projects must create or retain PRIMARY JOBS. Exceptions to this rule include business airports, port-related facilities, job training classes, career centers and certain infrastructure improvements that promote new and expanded business enterprises.

The economic development sales tax statute defines a PRIMARY JOB as a job: (1) available at a company for which a majority of the products or services of that company are ultimately exported to regional, statewide, national, or international markets, infusing new dollars into the local economy; and (2) included in one of the following sectors of the North America Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Eligible NAICS Codes

111	Crop Production
112	Animal Production
113	Forestry and Logging
11411	Commercial Fishing
115	Supporting Activities for Agriculture and Forestry
211-213	Mining
221	Utilities
311-399	Manufacturing
42	Wholesale Trade
48 and 49	Transportation and Warehousing
51	Information, excluding movie theaters (51213) and drive-in theaters (512132)
523-525	Securities, Commodity Centers and other Financial Investment and related activities; Insurance Carriers and related activities; Funds; Trusts and other Financial Vehicles
5413, 5415, 5417 and 5419	Scientific Research and Development Services
551	Management of Companies and Enterprises
56142	Telephone Call Centers
928110	National Security

Key Terminology

Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) are legal entities with the statutory authority to spend economic development sales tax dollars. The EDCs are city-chartered and governed by a city-appointed board of directors. EDCs are referred to as either “Type A” or “Type B” depending on the type of economic development sales tax uses approved by the local voters.

Chapters 501-505, Local Government Code is the section of the Texas law that contains the rules governing the uses of the economic development sales tax, including eligible uses of revenues and procedures that must be followed to enact the tax.

Type A Eligible Projects

- Land, buildings, equipment, facilities, improvements, and expenditures that are for the creation and retention of primary jobs and suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of the following types of projects: manufacturing, industrial, research & development, recycling, small warehouses, distribution centers, regional or national corporate headquarters, closed or realigned military bases, and primary job training facilities by higher education institutions
- Job training classes and career centers(no primary job requirement)
- Business airport facilities and port-related facilities
- Clean-up of contaminated project sites(with a special election and specific ballot language)
- Infrastructure assistance to retail or commercial projects
- Business-related sewer utilities and site improvements
- Beach remediation in Gulf communities required or suitable to promote or develop new or expanded business enterprise
- Projects designed to attract new military missions, prevent the closure of existing missions, and redevelop a closed or realigned military base
- General airport facilities for communities located 25 miles from the US/Mexico border only
- Light rail, commuter rail, or motor buses
- Type B projects with voter approval
- The City of Port Arthur is authorized to use the tax on certain general infrastructure, job training and university housing projects
- Ownership of a certain project based in Hidalgo County



Type B Eligible Projects

- Everything authorized under Type A, including retail and commercial projects with the same restrictions
- Water supply facilities (with a special election and specific ballot language)
- Projects that improve a community's quality of life, including parks, professional and amateur sport and athletic facilities, tourism and entertainment facilities, affordable housing, and other improvements or expenditures that promote new or expanded business activity that create or retain primary jobs.
- Projects designed to attract new military missions, prevent the closure of existing missions, and redevelop a closed or realigned military base.
- Sewer or solid waste disposal facilities in Hidalgo County
- Direct incentives for retail in communities with fewer than 20,000 residents and certain land-locked cities
- Hangars, airport maintenance and repair facilities, air cargo facilities, related infrastructure located on or adjacent to an airport facility
- Airport facilities provided that the eligible municipality enter into an approved development agreement with an entity that acquires a leasehold or other possessory

Key Contacts and For More Information on the Economic Development Sales Tax

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