



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

TAX RATE INCREASE PROPOSAL

The City of Abilene proposes an increase to the property tax rate for the 2020 tax year. The no-new-revenue rate is .7643 per \$100 valuation and the proposal would increase the rate to point .7877 per \$100 valuation.

The proposed rate is below the voter approval tax rate so the City is not required to hold a public vote to decide on the increase or not. A public hearing will be held on August 13 at City Hall Council Chambers beginning at 8:30 a.m. Citizens may express their support or concerns at the public hearing. According to a statement Mayor Anthony Williams and all Council members are in favor of the rate increase. (Source: KACU)

KTAB & KRBC TO BROADCAST SPECIAL ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROCEDURES

In an effort to ensure parents are prepared for the back-to-school season, the news division of KTAB and KRBC is proud to announce a community conversation to be aired this week.

Back to School, a Community Conversation will air on KTAB at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 5 and on KRBC at 12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8. The special broadcast will also stream on BigCountryHomepage.com on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

The broadcast will be an in-depth conversation with Abilene and Big Country school officials on the plan to either keep kids safe in the classroom or efficiently learning at home.

The town hall will feature questions submitted to KTAB and KRBC on social media. Answering questions and concerns will be Abilene ISD Superintendent Dr. David Young, Wylie ISD Superintendent Joey Light, Jim Ned CISD Superintendent Dr. Glen Teal and Sweetwater ISD Superintendent Dr. Drew Howard.

[Learn more.](#)

2020-21 AISD REOPENING PLAN

Yesterday, Abilene ISD released their Come Together: A Path Back to the Classroom plan to the community. You can read a message from the superintendent and the precautions they are [taking here](#).

RECORD ECONOMIC PLUNGE IN SECOND QUARTER

AND BLEAK JOBS NUMBERS REVEAL VIRUS TOLL

The U.S. economy underwent a record-breaking decline of 32.9% in the second quarter, marking the biggest drop on record since 1947. The implications of this sharp decline is evident as another 1.4 million Americans filed for unemployment towards the end of July. However, this period of steep economic decline is likely temporary as most economic analysts expect a stunning rebound to take place during the current third quarter, which will close out in September. While predictions for the third quarter indicate better days ahead, the damage dealt to the economy will still take years to fully recover. To read more, [click here](#).

TEXAS BRANDED A TOP STATE FOR BUSINESSES TO SURVIVE THE PANDEMIC

A recent study conducted by Fit Small Business ranks Texas as the third best state equipped to survive the economic implications of COVID-19. The researchers weighed five metrics: Economic and Financial Health; Least Economic Stressors; Emergency Reserves and Relief; COVID-19 Rates and Health Care Infrastructure; and Consumer Confidence.

Texas ranked number 1 in the Emergency Reserves and Relief category since the state has the second-highest CARES Act endowment of over \$10 billion. The study also cites the state's economic reserves, wide variety of industries, low cost of living, and other benefits as a solid foundation for economic recovery. To see the full study, [click here](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

10 Valuable B2B Sales Tools for Small Businesses

"Having the right sales tools will help you save time and reach high-quality leads. Here are 10 B2B sales tools you can consider."

[Read more.](#)

U.S. crude output in May plummets by a record 2 million bpd

"U.S. crude oil production plummeted in May, falling a record 2 million barrels per day to 10 million bpd, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in a monthly report on Friday."

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

8/5 SBA/FAA VIRTUAL INDUSTRY DAY The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Dallas/Fort Worth District Office teams up with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to bring to the small business community the first SBA/FAA Virtual Industry Day, August 5th, 2020 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. [Learn more.](#)

8/5 HUMANITIES TEXAS GRANTS AND EXHIBITIONS hold a free webinar on grants

and exhibitions for Texas cultural and educational organizations. Learn about funding opportunities, traveling exhibitions, and other resources provided by Humanities Texas. Staff will make brief presentations and then be available for questions and discussion. [Register here.](#)

8/5 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE COVID-19 has impacted how we conduct business in many ways. That is why the Governor's Small Business Team will host another webinar focused on helping small businesses develop adaptive strategies for an evolving future. This webinar will help guide business owners and entrepreneurs in implementing solutions, such as e-commerce and online strategies, to maximize business resiliency during uncertain times. [Register here.](#)

8/11 TEXAS ALLIANCE OF ENERGY PRODUCERS SUMMER CONFERENCE join this FREE webinar on Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm to hear from distinguished energy professionals on issues important to you and your company. [Register here.](#)

8/11 HOW TO START A SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR Business Counselor, Manzel McGhee will overview what steps and procedures should be taken to start a small business including risks, opportunities and rewards. [Register here.](#)

8/13 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING VIRTUAL LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSION discussion about government contracting for Women-Owned Small Businesses. [Learn more.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Abilene Chamber CEO Selected for Economic Recovery Fellowship](#)
- [Your Chamber Commitment for Fall Events](#)
- [Free Mask Poster for Chamber Members](#)
- [Abilene Chamber Now Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year](#)
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