

# Politics

## Tax credits announced

### New breaks designed to stimulate economy

By ERIC AMBROSO  
THE BATTALION

Texas Comptroller Carole Rylander has recently announced a list of counties in which businesses can apply for state tax breaks in 2002. These tax breaks will be used to stimulate the economy with research credits, job creation credits and investment credits. According to officials, all three of the tax credits will benefit large and small businesses.

While the job creation and investment credits are based on a county's unemployment rate and per capita income, the research credit has been given to all counties in Texas. Brazos County was only qualified for a 5-percent research credit for the 2002 year. Firms conducting research

to create new products and technology will receive this tax credit from the state government and can be used to cover expenditures.

"It takes a long time and a lot of expenditures to invent and promote a new product," said Ed Warren, spokesman for the Revenue Service at the Comptroller's Office. "Research credits will reduce the amount that businesses in Brazos County will pay by 5 percent. The state will cover the rest of the cost with revenue raised by other taxes. By using this tax system, the state plans to give incentives to the economy."

Warren said the tax breaks will encourage firms to make larger research expenditures. By creating new processes and products, the tax credits will stimulate economic growth, create new jobs and help rejuvenate the economy.

## Dallas mayor resigns, plans to run for U.S. senate

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk resigned Wednesday to run for U.S. Senate, ending a six-year tenure in which he was widely credited with unifying a fractured City Council and pushing through major civic improvement projects.

Kirk, a Democrat, will seek the job being vacated by Republican Phil Gramm, who is retiring.

Kirk was overwhelmingly elected the city's first black mayor in 1995 and won again by a wide margin in 1999. He took office when the city was polarized racially, but used his strong hand to tame contentious council meetings.

But the mayor also has had his share of disappointments as the leader of the nation's fourth-largest city, with a population of 1.2 million people. In the last six months, Boeing Co. chose not to relocate its headquarters to Dallas and the city was eliminated from consideration to host the

2012 Olympic Games.

"We have done what we said we were going to do. We stopped the blame game. We ended the bickering here at City Hall," Kirk said during his farewell speech to supporters.

"More importantly, perhaps most importantly, we have changed the culture and the expectations of what you believed could happen in this building so that we could change the reality of what happens outside this building."

Kirk's next step is to begin raising money for a March 12 primary. His expected challengers are former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen of Houston, Austin lawyer Ed Cunningham and Victor Morales, a former U.S. Senate candidate.

Should Kirk get past the primary, he is likely to face state Attorney General John Cornyn, a Republican, in November.

Observers say Kirk's lack of name recognition outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area means he will be forced to spend a lot of money campaigning in the primary.

"His biggest challenge will be to familiarize the rest of the state of Texas with himself," said Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, a longtime black activist.

Austin political analyst Bill Miller said Kirk will be an energetic and charismatic contender.

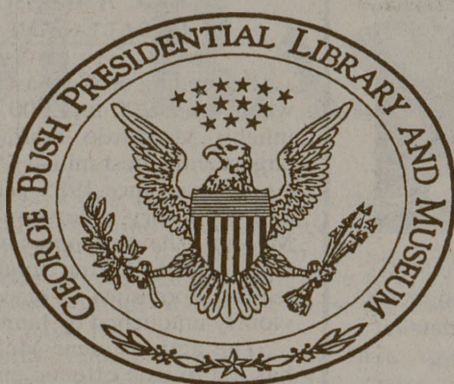
"On the Democratic side, he's the best candidate in terms of creating excitement and drawing attention," he said.

But in a general election, Miller said, Cornyn will be an "extremely formidable" foe.

Kirk passes the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Mary Poss, who has said she will not run in a special election in January to fill his term. Poss will continue to represent her district while serving as acting mayor.

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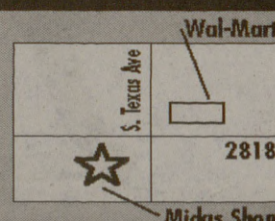
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