



**JAMES NOACK**  
**COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

1130 Pruitt Road  
Spring, Texas 77380  
Email: [commissionernoack@mctx.org](mailto:commissionernoack@mctx.org)

Conroe: (936) 539-7817  
Houston: (281) 367-3977  
Fax: (281) 298-7321

May 3, 2017

Dear Elected Official/Department Head:

The public has made it clear that they want to see lower property taxes. The public asked for, and the court granted a 20 percent homestead exemption and a disabled exemption. Each of us are public servants. By definition, we are in the service of the public. Our very jobs, our careers, are funded by the taxpayer.

The 2018 budget process and my request to reduce spending by a minimum of five percent seems to have caused concern and raised questions. I want each of you to understand why this reduction is necessary, why it must happen.

The homestead exemptions return \$28,412,824 to the taxpayer. In financial terms, this represents a loss in that amount to the county. We are fortunate that our county is growing and can help offset this loss. As a matter of fact, we will see an increase in value in 2018 of approximately \$3.7 billion. This new value will increase 2018 revenues by \$17,540,704 to offset the loss. This means the county's net loss and required spending reductions equal \$10,872,120.

Difficult decisions, best made by each of you, are required to meet this reduction. I understand how difficult it is to cut budgets. I understand in some cases it may mean reducing staff. However, avoidance nor incognizance will shield us from this task; neither will declaring "I can't cut my budget." I believe we can, together, make the necessary spending reductions and not compromise the services we provide.

I am happy to meet with each of you, as is Dodi Shaw in Human Resources, to provide any needed assistance. The success of any cost cutting is dependent upon all of us to thoroughly and thoughtfully review and identify those costs that may be reduced. Any individual abdication of their responsibility to assist in this endeavor is not acceptable to me or the taxpayer.

Respectfully,



Commissioner James Noack