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# Montgomery Advertiser

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## Legislation could raise sales tax

### Bill would hike it to 10% in Autauga County

**Marty Roney**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PRATTVILLE – The tax bill in Autauga County will increase in the future if a sales tax hike and formation of rental tax is signed into law.

The bill passed the legislature and is awaiting Gov. Kay Ivey's signature. It calls for a half-cent sales tax increase and the formation of a 3% rental tax.

The Autauga County Commission

sought the tax package with proceeds going to the general fund. The move was made without fanfare, but Commission Chairman Jay Thompson said it was discussed at a public commission meeting and the proposal had a four-week run as a legal advertisement.

#### How would Autauga County taxes change under the new law?

It was 1979 when the current half-cent sales tax was passed to go to the



**Thompson**

Education.

The increase would raise the sales tax collected in Prattville, with city and state tax added in, to 10%, up from the current 9.5%. The total in the rural part of the county would be 6.5%, with the state collecting 4%.

general fund. That was the first time the county levied a sales tax for the general fund. The county's sales tax total is 2%, with one-and-a-half percent going to the Autauga County Board of

"We had to do something to raise funding," Thompson said. "All we have going to the general fund as far as sales tax goes is the half-penny. This will give us a full penny. Expenses have increased in those 47 years, and we needed to get more funding."

Thompson said the rental tax is not levied for homes or apartments. It is for vehicle or equipment rentals, he said.

"If you rent a backhoe, it will be added to that expense, but it won't be for residences," he said.

See SALES TAX, Page 2A



The new Montgomery Square outside Elevation Convening Center and Hotel in Montgomery on March 6.  
JAKE CRANDALL/ADVERTISER

## 'CARRYING TRUTHS'

### EJI's 'Montgomery Memory Project' to preserve civil rights memories

**Sarah Clifton**  
Montgomery Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Equal Justice Initiative is launching a new project to document the lived experience of the "Montgomery Decade That Changed the World."

Retitled the Montgomery Memory Project, it will be centered on recording video interviews with those who lived in the Montgomery area between 1955 and 1965 and have personal memories of the time period.

"This is a critical time in our history, and we're moving into a period where we're losing a lot of important voices, a lot of important insights, a lot of important reflections," said Bryan Stevenson, executive director of EJI. "We don't want to miss the opportunity we have to collect perspective, collect memories."

The start of the project — which Stevenson described as "vital" for future generations to have to come to understand the Civil Rights Movement — comes shortly after the grand opening of EJI's fourth Legacy Site, Montgomery Square, which is also focused on the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

Quite a few voices who were alive during this period have already shared their experiences, which

the public can view on EJI's Montgomery Square website.

Voices currently included in the project include Valda Harris Montgomery, Jeanette Howard-Moore, Delores Boyd, Vanzetta McPherson, Nathan Williams and Manuel Williams, as well as some videos that include Fred Gray and the late John Lewis.

"There will be decades from now where people are going to be trying to understand what happened in this community between 1955 and 1965, and we have a lot to look to, but there's so much more," Stevenson said. "Many of you are carrying stories, carrying truths, carrying memories that are important for understanding the strength, the character of this community."

Stevenson said that anyone that lived during the time period that Montgomery Square focuses on that wants to participate is welcome. To learn more, the project's team can be reached at 334-269-1803 or MMP@eji.org.

Sarah Clifton covers business for the Montgomery Advertiser. You can reach her at [scifton@montgome.gannett.com](mailto:scifton@montgome.gannett.com) or follow her on X @sarahgclifton and TikTok @sarahgclifton. To support her work, please subscribe to the Montgomery Advertiser.

## State could seize MPD with new bill

### Measure lays out staffing requirements

**Anna Barrett**  
ALABAMA REFLECTOR

The Senate on Tuesday passed a bill requiring Class 3 municipal law enforcement agencies to meet minimum staffing requirements before the state intervenes.

SB 298, sponsored by Sen. Will Barfoot, R-Pike Road, requires the state's two Class 3 municipalities, Montgomery and Huntsville, to have 1.9 full-time law enforcement officers per 1,000 residents, based on the 2020 census.

"The motivation is simple: it's the public safety of the citizens of Montgomery, those who live here, those

See MPD, Page 2A

#### WORLD ATLAS

## 8 must-see historic forts in Alabama

**Jennifer Lindahl**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Alabama's past is etched into its landscapes, from coastal strongholds guarding Mobile Bay to inland forts tied to early American conflict.

Whether you're a history buff or just seeking a scenic day trip, Alabama's historic forts offer a powerful way to step into the past. World Atlas features eight of these historic forts, each providing a compelling glimpse into the state's layered history.

See FORTS, Page 2A

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