

Public service ad 2005


Ad title:

“Homestead exemption”

10 inches deep

2 columns (13 picas) wide

*Insert here the name, address,
& telephone number of the local
appraisal district (centered).*



A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$35,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on January 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$15,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes this year...and it doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

Are other exemptions available?

If you're *disabled*—or if you're *65 years old* or older—you are entitled to an *additional \$10,000 school tax exemption* on your home. And if you qualify for the over-65 or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in “*ceiling*” on the school property taxes on your home. (The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling to lock in 2005 taxes as the highest amount for 65 and older or disabled homeowners.) The over-65 homeowner's school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses 55 years of age or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling, to a new home.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 2004, you won't need to reapply for 2005 unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've *moved* to a new home—you'll need to file for an exemption for 2005. If you are 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you turned 65. And if you *became disabled*, you need to file for the disabled person's exemption.

When and where should I file?

File applications by *April 30* at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

For more information, stop in or call for a free copy of

“Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities”

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn

Property Tax Division

P.O. Box 13528

Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121

or on the Web at:

www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/proptax.html

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.