NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON

ECTOR COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Ector County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed appraisal services budget for the 2020 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 7, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the Ector County Appraisal District, Second Floor Board Room, 1301 East Eighth Street, Odessa, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

- The amount of the proposed budget is $3,373,172.
- The total amount of increase from the current year’s budget is $116,326.
- The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 28 (full-time equivalent).
- The number of employees compensated under the current budget is 28 (full-time equivalent).

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities, and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection in the appraisal district office.

Anita Campbell, RPA, RTA, Chief Appraiser-Executive Director
Ector County Appraisal District
1301 East Eighth Street
Odessa, Texas 79761
(432) 332-6834
A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at $50,000 and you receive a $25,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth $25,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a $25,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. 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 age 65 or older 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 for age 65 or older or disabled homeowners. The age 65 or older homeowners’ school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is age 55 or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners for their surviving spouses are 55 or older also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home’s school tax ceiling to a new home.

If you’re a disabled veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child of a disabled veteran, you are entitled to an exemption of a portion of the appraised value of your residence homestead. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead’s market value to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

If you’re a disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to service-connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been effective at the time of the veteran’s death are also eligible with certain restrictions.

If you are the surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member killed in action or an eligible surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won’t need to reapply 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 an application for exemption. If you are age 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you became age 65. And if you became disabled, you may 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:

**ECTOR COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

1301 E. 8TH STREET

ODESSA, TEXAS 79761-4703

(432) 332-6834

www.ectorcad.org

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If your land already receives agricultural or timber production appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land has not received a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to the local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your property taxes. You may get up to 10 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will have a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

When is the application deadline?

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers, wildlife managers, and timber growers to pay property taxes based on the productivity value of their land rather than its market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber—and not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

Productivity Appraisal may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland.