

For Immediate Release

Appraisal Notices for Tax Year 2010 Are in the mail to area property owners

If your property value has increased in the last year, you should soon receive a notice of your 2010 appraised value from the Liberty County Appraisal District. The appraisal district mailed about 43,000 notices on April 20, 2010. Your city, county, school district and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set your 2010 property taxes.

State law requires county appraisal districts to notify property owners about changes in their property's value. The notice also contains important information about the property's location, its ownership and property tax exemptions that have been applied to the property. It must include an estimate of 2010 taxes by local taxing units.

Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Liberty County Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests. The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is before June 1 or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed you a notice of appraised value, whichever is later. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday it is extended to the next business day.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' publication, Property Taxpayer Remedies, explains in detail how to protest your property appraisal, what issues the ARB can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option of taking your case to court or entering into binding arbitration if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your ARB hearing.

Property Taxpayer Remedies is available from the Liberty County Appraisal District. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121, ext. 1.