

Press Release

2017 Tax Statements Mailed 10/2/2017

The 2017 Tax Statements were mailed on Monday, October 2nd. If a mortgage company requested the tax statement then it will be sent to the mortgage company instead of the homeowner.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT AND PAYMENT OPTIONS: Taxpayers have until January 31, 2018 to pay their taxes. On February 1, penalty and interest charges begin accumulating on unpaid tax bills. If you do get behind on your taxes, contact the appraisal district for any installment plan that may be available. Homeowners age 65 or older or disabled persons also can pay their taxes on their home in quarterly payments. One fourth of your taxes are due before February 1, and then one fourth is due by April 1, June 1 and August 1. There is no penalty or interest if the payments are made on time.

DEFER OR ABATE TAX COLLECTION: If you are a homeowner aged 65 or older or if you are a disabled person, you may defer or postpone paying property taxes on your home for as long as you own and live in it. A tax deferral only postpones your tax liability. Interest on the taxes accrues at the rate of 8 percent a year. Once you or your surviving spouse no longer own your home or live in it, past taxes and interest become due 181 days later. Similarly, a recent law change allows for disabled veterans, the surviving spouse, or surviving child of a deceased disabled veteran, to defer (or abate) the collection of delinquent taxes.

EXEMPTIONS: To qualify for a general homestead exemption you must own your home on January 1. You can qualify for the overage 65 or disabled homeowners exemptions as soon as you turn 65 or become disabled. You must own the home and it must be your principal residence. When you receive an overage 65 exemption or a disabled person exemption you also receive a tax ceiling for your school taxes. A recent law change allows a homeowner who has not received the homestead exemption to file a late application up to 2 years after the delinquency date for the home taxes.

A disabled veteran or their surviving spouse can qualify for additional property tax exemptions. Contact the appraisal district for more information. A recent law change allows disabled veterans to file a late application up to 5 years from the delinquency date.

How to Apply for Exemptions. Obtain an application form from the appraisal district or the district's website. Return the form to the appraisal district.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY. If you own a business, you pay property tax on your income-producing personal property, including furniture, fixtures, equipment and inventory. You will pay taxes on the property that you own on January 1. If you dispose of the property or go out of business after the first of the year, you are still responsible for the taxes on the personal property you owned on January 1.

If you failed to render your business personal property to the appraisal district, a 10% penalty has been added to your tax bill.

Please contact the Deaf Smith County Appraisal District if you have any questions about your tax statement.