

**NEWS RELEASE FROM JOHNSON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
109 N. Main, Cleburne, Texas 76033 - 817/648-3000
Jim Hudspeth, Chief Appraiser**

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For Immediate Release

**Appraisal District Encourages Homeowners to Take
Advantage of Homestead Exemptions**

One of the easiest ways a homeowner can lower his or her property tax bill in 2015 is to file a homestead exemption. A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner's principal residence on January 1 of the tax year.

Homestead exemptions reduce the appraised value of your home and, as a result, lower your property taxes. To apply for an exemption on your residence homestead, contact the Central Appraisal District of Johnson County.

Available homestead exemptions include:

- **School taxes:** All homeowners may receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption for school taxes.
- **County taxes:** If a county collects a special tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control, a homeowner may receive a \$3,000 homestead exemption for this tax.
- **Age and disability exemptions:** Individuals 65 or older or disabled may qualify for a \$10,000 homestead exemption for school taxes, in addition to the \$15,000 exemption available to all homeowners. Also, any taxing unit may offer a local optional exemption of at least \$3,000 for taxpayers age 65 or older and/or disabled. Older or disabled homeowners do not need to own their homes on January 1 to qualify for the \$10,000 homestead exemption. They qualify as soon as they turn 65 or become disabled. Taxing units in Johnson County that grant the local option age 65 or older or disabled exemption are:

	<u>Over 65</u>	<u>Disabled</u>
Burleson ISD	\$25,000	\$25,000
Cleburne ISD	\$ 7,000	
City of Alvarado	\$15,000	\$15,000
City of Cleburne	\$ 6,000	
City of Crowley	\$40,000	\$40,000
City of Godley	\$10,000	
City of Grandview	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
City of Joshua	\$25,000	\$25,000
City of Keene	\$15,000	\$15,000
City of Mansfield	\$50,000	\$10,000
City of Rio Vista	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000

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City of Venus	\$10,000	\$10,000
Johnson County	\$10,000	\$10,000
Johnson County Lateral Road	\$10,000	\$10,000
Johnson County Emergency Services District	\$10,000	\$10,000
Hill College	\$10,000	\$10,000

- Taxing units may offer a **local option exemption** based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. Any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage of value the taxing unit adopts, the dollar value of the exemption must be at least \$5,000. Taxing units in Johnson County that grant the percentage homestead exemption are:

City of Cleburne	10% or not less than \$5,000
Crowley ISD	10% or not less than \$5,000
Johnson County	1% or not less than \$5,000
Johnson County Lateral Road	1% or not less than \$5,000
Johnson County Emergency Services District	1% or not less than \$5,000
Hill College	1% or not less than \$5,000

- **Partial disabled veteran exemptions:** Texas law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by veterans who are disabled, spouses and survivors of deceased disabled veterans. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans. The amount of exemption is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability.
- **100% Residence Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans:** A disabled veteran who receives from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (1) 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability; and (2) a rating of 100 percent disabled or of individual unemployability is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Surviving spouses are also eligible upon the veteran's death with certain restrictions. The residence homestead application must be filed if this exemption is claimed.
- **Surviving Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Services Killed in Action:** The surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. armed services who is killed in action is allowed a total (100 percent) property tax exemption on his or her residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the armed services member.

For more details on homestead exemptions, contact the Central Appraisal District of Johnson County at 109 North Main Street in Cleburne, Texas during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays or at (817) 648-3000. The homestead exemption application is also available on the District's website at www.johnsoncad.com. The homestead exemption application is also available online at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-114.pdf>.