



The 2023 Tax Statement



A newsletter of the Galveston County Tax Office – Where the race for quality has no finish line!



from the desk of

Cheryl E. Johnson

As of this writing, the Regular and two Special Sessions of the 88th Legislature are behind us. The Sessions did not demonstrate a collaborative effort to adopt good public policy. However, the end result may prove to be a start toward resolving concerns about the rapid rise in property taxes caused by increasing appraised values if voters support Proposition Four November 7th. This newsletter is dedicated to explaining Proposition (Prop) Four.

To begin with, every Constitutional amendment requires enabling legislation and for Prop Four it is Senate Bill 2. SB 2 required school tax bills to be calculated assuming passage of the Constitutional Amendment. Thus, property owners in a GCTO partner school district are receiving a Preliminary 2023 Tax Statement. If GCTO does not collect your school taxes, you will receive a preliminary statement from your school district tax office.

Prop Four states (segmented and explained for simplicity purposes):

What's New for 2023 Tax Year?

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to...

i. establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes;

20% appraisal cap on ALL non-homestead real property limiting tax increases for three years beginning with 2023 values (homestead cap will remain at 10%)

ii. to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000;

School Constitutional homestead exemption will be increased to \$100,000 (beginning this tax year)

iii. to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts;

The tax ceiling (freezes) for seniors and disabled persons will be reset to ensure they permanently receive the benefit of recent rate decreases and exemption increases

iv. to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and

Property tax relief appropriations by the State will be excluded from the Constitutional limit on the rate of growth in State spending

v. to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

Counties with populations >/= to 75,000 will have 3 elected positions on county appraisal district board of directors. In these counties, appraisal review board members will be appointed by the 5 government appointed, 3 elected and the county tax assessor collector board members.

These are good changes and a move in the right direction. I am serving on the House Select Study Committee on Sustainable Property Tax Relief. I am hopeful that this committee will work to develop more reforms for the 89th Legislature to consider!

Cheryl

Contact GCTO

General Information (Support Services).....(409) 766-2284 toll free (877) 766-2284
Fax: (409) 766-2479 ✉ Email: galcotax@galvestoncountytexas.gov ✉ Web: www.galcotax.com
Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC, CTOP, Tax Assessor/Collector.....(409) 766-2260
Kathleen Moreno, CTOP, Chief Deputy Business Services.....(409) 766-2474
LaTonya Dominick, PCC, Chief Deputy Property Tax/Support Services.....(409) 766-2476
Property Tax Department.....(409) 766-2481
Motor Vehicle & TPWD Information.....(409) 766-2485
Voter Registration Department.....(409) 766-2280 or Toll Free (888) 976-2280

Full Time Locations

Galveston Courthouse, 722 Moody, Galveston
(Branch Operations, Accounting, Property Tax,
Support Services and Voter Registration)
North County Annex, 174 Calder Drive, League City
West County Annex, 11730 Highway 6, Santa Fe
East County Annex, 2516 Texas Avenue, Texas City

Satellites

946 Noble Carl Rd, Crystal Beach
Friendswood City Hall, 910 S.
Friendswood Dr.

Hours of Operation

Full time offices:
Monday – Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Friday 8 am to Noon
Crystal Beach Satellite:
3rd Tuesday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed 11:30-Noon for lunch)
Friendswood Satellite:
Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm (closed Noon-1 pm for lunch) & Friday 8 am to Noon

 Property Fraud Alert is an online service that alerts you to possible fraudulent filings on your property. Sign up FREE at www.propertyfraudalert.com.

★ Disaster installments are available for 2023 property taxes ★

Ways to Pay

1. In person (*see first page for hours and locations*)
2. Mail to GCTO, 722 Moody, Galveston, TX 77550. **We no longer have a post office box.** Include the coupon and mail on time (*payments posted by postmark*).
3. Online at www.galcotax.com, click on the large red button, locate account and pay via credit or debit card or e-check. Bank fees apply (*e-check is less than a stamp*).
4. Credit or debit card via telephone. Bank fees apply! Toll free 1-800-420-1663.
5. Drop in a yellow GCTO payment box located at all full time locations. Black payment box at Friendswood City Hall along driveway. Mail picked up at 8:30 am and stamped as received the previous business day.

County Appraisal Districts

Appraisal districts (CADs) locate, list and appraise property (*which means they determine the value of your property*). They also handle exemptions, name, address and ownership changes. We will provide forms and assist when possible or you may contact the appropriate CAD as shown below:

Galveston CAD 9850 EF Lowry Expressway, Texas City
(409) 935-1980 or (866) 277-4725 toll free

Email: gcad@galvestoncad.org ☎ www.galvestoncad.org

Harris CAD 13013 Northwest Freeway, Houston
(713) 957-7800

Email: help@hcad.org ☎ www.hcad.org

Visit Texas.gov/property taxes to view a local property tax database. Contact the elected officials setting your rates directly!

GCTO Commitment to Service

1. The customer is never an interruption to our work – the customer IS our work
2. Brighten every customer's day, greet everyone with a smile
3. Whenever possible, acknowledge customers by name
4. Project professionalism, courtesy and dignity to everyone
5. State things in a positive way
6. NEVER argue with a customer
7. Always go the extra mile to provide assistance
8. Never say, "I don't know what to do" without saying, "but I would be more than happy to find out."
9. Never blame someone else
10. Never forget that the customer pays our salary
11. Be remarkable!

Other News

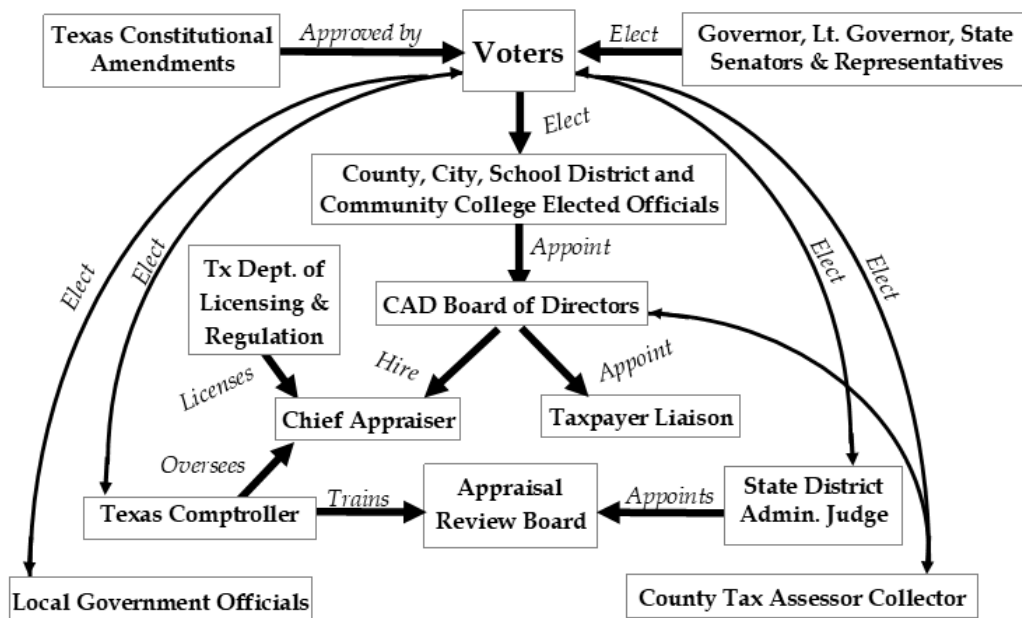
We have a new collection partner (South Shore Harbour MUD #7). Consolidation of tax collections is a real \$\$\$ saver for local governments and far more convenient for you!



IF YOU ARE WRITING CHECKS TO MULTIPLE GOVERNMENTS—you need to ask the elected officials of those governments WHY? We charge \$0.21/parcel for Galveston County and \$0.97/parcel for Harris County properties which is significantly less than just the postage for other tax offices to mail bills. Consider the additional cost of printing and processing the payments. More—consider the time and effort for YOU to keep up with more than one tax office and tax bill!

Voters Control the Texas Tax System!

Please take a few minutes and examine the image at right. Voters have the ultimate say with regard to their property taxes beginning with Constitutional Amendments down to the many state and local elected officials making decisions impacting them. State agencies regulating some of the people in the tax system (*such as the Tx Dept. of Licensing & Regulation*) have Governor appointed boards. With passage of Prop 4 November 7th, there will be changes to county appraisal districts (*see article on reverse side*). Ultimately, **YOU** are the **most influential** person in the process!



To obtain assistance or update name or address information, **please complete this form, cut along dotted line above and return in the envelope** with payment and coupon. Include your account number. DO NOT write on coupon!

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____ CHANGE NEEDED: _____