



Assessor's Office in Orleans Parish

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Homeowners to begin receiving Homestead Exemption forms in mail

Assessor Williams asked that they be returned immediately

Property owners will begin receiving their 2012 Homestead Exemption Applications in the mail. For the \$7,500 Homestead Exemption to be applied to the assessed value of one's domicile, the form must be signed and returned by the homeowner as soon as possible, said Assessor Erroll G. Williams.

As required by state law, all property, residential and commercial, will be re-valued in Orleans Parish for the 2012 quadrennial re-assessment, said Assessor Williams. It is important to keep your homestead exemption current.

"I am currently working with members of the New Orleans legislative delegation to pass a state law which will make the homestead exemption permanent effective in 2013 and for subsequent years" said Assessor Williams. "The current law requiring homeowners to reapply annually is costly, inefficient and unnecessary."

The mailing contains a two-part form. The first form (Part A) is the 2012 Homestead Exemption Application; the second part (Part B) is the 2012 Special Assessment Application for homeowners who are 65 years of age or older, or for homeowners with a permanent disability and whose adjusted gross income is \$65,891 or less. Homeowners with a permanent disability must apply annually for the Special Assessment. Those who qualify for a Special Assessment will have their property assessment frozen at a fair market value. Please note that you **cannot** have a Special Assessment freeze on a property that has a damage assessment valuation, said Assessor Williams.

The State Constitution guarantees a Homestead Exemption for each eligible Louisiana homeowner. The Homestead Exemption was set by voters in 1980 at \$75,000 of market value (\$7500 of assessed value) and is covered by Article VII, Section 20 of the Louisiana Constitution. According to the State Constitution, 10 percent of the fair market value of your home can be assessed for property taxes. The Homestead Exemption is permanent for as long as the individual owns and resides at that property in Orleans Parish. Only one Homestead exemption can be granted per home that is owned and permanently occupied as a domicile by a resident in Louisiana.

For more information, call Assessor Williams' office (504) 658-1300.

