

Homestead Exemption Program

Putnam County

Dear Homeowner,

Effective July 1, 2007, the Homestead Exemption in the State of Ohio was expanded significantly. Under the previous program an income formula screened out a high percentage of applicants. Also, for those who did qualify, the exemption was applied on a sliding scale.

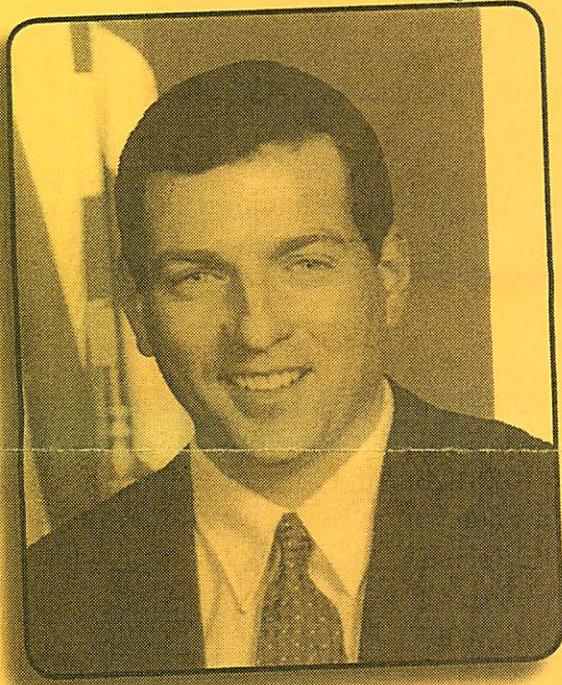
Under the new program, there is no income testing requirement and the amount of appraised value exempted from tax is fixed at \$25,000 in most instances.

This brochure should answer many of your questions about the new Homestead program. If you have further questions or would like an application, please call us at 419-523-6686 or check our website at www.co.putnam.oh.us

Sincerely,



Robert L. Benroth
Putnam County Auditor



THE FACTS

What is the Homestead Exemption?

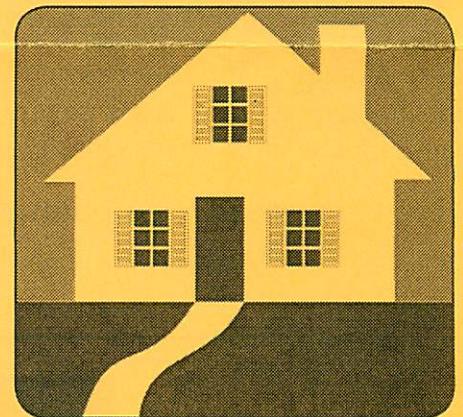
Ohio's Homestead Exemption allows *qualifying senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans* to reduce their property taxes by exempting up to \$25,000 of their home's market value from property taxes.

For example, a home with a market value of \$100,000 would be taxed as though it is worth \$75,000. The exact amount of tax savings varies based on the home's location. In Putnam County the typical savings are between \$250 and \$400 per year.

Who can qualify for the Homestead Exemption?

Any Ohio resident homeowner who:

- Is at least 65 years old during the year they apply; **or**
- Is totally and permanently disabled as of January 1 of the year they apply as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist, or an eligible state or federal agency; **or**
- Is the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the Homestead Exemption at the time of their death, and where the surviving spouse was at least 59 years old on the date of their spouse's death; **and**
- Owns and occupies a home in Ohio as their principal place of residence as of January 1 of the year they apply and on the date of the application.



The principal place of residence is the home where the applicant is registered to vote and their place of residence as shown on their Ohio income tax form.

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How do I apply for the Homestead Exemption?

Complete the application form (DTE 105A, *Homestead Exemption Application Form for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons, and Surviving Spouses*), then file it with your County Auditor. The form is available from your County Auditor's Office or the Auditor's website.

Where do I apply?

The application must be filed with the County Auditor of the county in which the property is located.

How do I show proof of age?

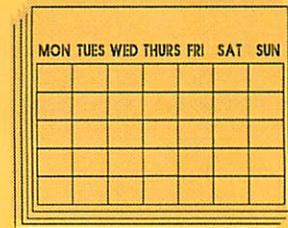
The application form requires reporting your age and date of birth. The application is signed under the penalty of perjury (Ohio Revised Code 2921.11). The County Auditor's Office will require age verification, such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

How do I prove I am disabled?

If you are physically disabled, you must have a Certificate of Disability (Ohio DTE Form 105E) signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Ohio. If you are mentally disabled, you must have the certificate signed by either a physician or a psychologist licensed to practice in Ohio; or you may submit a certificate from an eligible state or federal agency which classifies you as being permanently and totally disabled.

What is the deadline to apply?

Applications for the Homestead Exemption must be submitted between the first Monday in January and the first Monday in June.

**What if I miss the filing deadline?**

If you miss the deadline, you will need to file a late application for the missed tax year at the same time you file a timely application for the next tax year.

How will I know my application has been approved?

The Homestead Exemption reduction will appear on your first half tax bill.

If your application is denied, you will receive a notice explaining the reason for the denial on or before November 1.

**To keep receiving the Homestead Exemption do I have to apply each year?**

No. However, in January each year, you will receive a Continuing Application Form. This form (Ohio DTE Form 105B) will ask several questions about possible changes in your Homestead status since the previous year. If you have had no relevant changes, you will not need to return the form to our office.

The Homestead Exemption will save me significant tax dollars. Will this hurt my local schools?

The State of Ohio reimburses school districts and local governments for the revenue property owners save.

If you have questions, call your
Putnam County Auditor's Office.

ROBERT L. BENROTH

(419) 523-6686

www.co.putnam.oh.us