



Harris County Appraisal District News Release

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Protest Deadline Is May 15 For Property In Harris County

Houston — Harris County property owners who believe there is an error in the market value set by the appraisal district have until Tuesday, May 15 to protest the value of their property.

The Texas Legislature moved the protest deadline to May 15 during the last legislative session. The previous deadline had been May 31.

Because of property damage from Hurricane Harvey, some property owners will not receive their value notice until later this month. If that is the case, they will still have 30 days to file their protest, and that later protest deadline will be listed on their value notice.

A green protest form is included in the property value notice the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) is sending to each property owner. A Notice of Protest form may be downloaded from the district's web site at www.hcad.org under the FORMS heading. It is easily found under "Popular Forms." The Notice of Protest is the second form on that list and is form number 41-44.

Instructions for filing are located in the upper left corner of the Notice of Protest form. Protests may be filed online through the iFile system, brought to HCAD's office at 13013 Northwest Freeway, or mailed to P.O. Box 922004, Houston, TX 77292-2004, but must be postmarked by May 15.

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Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger encouraged property owners to use HCAD's online iFile system to submit their protest. The chief appraiser noted that unique iFile numbers are printed on the face of the 2018 value notices near the property account number in the upper right. For security reasons, the iFile system cannot be used for filing a protest without this iFile number unless the property owner has an existing electronic owners account.

Owners who have misplaced their value notice can use HCAD's free iPhone app to quickly retrieve their iFile number by scanning their Texas driver's license. The name and address on the license must match the property address in the HCAD system.

Homeowners who file their protest through the Internet using iFile may also have an opportunity to settle their value online with HCAD's iSettle system. Property owners who have opted in to iSettle may choose to upload evidence through the owner's website. Property owners will have five days to submit their documentation, such as a closing statement, deed or photos, electronically from the date they filed their protest electronically. Questions concerning iSettle may be directed to isettle@hcad.org.

If a settlement through the online system isn't possible once HCAD makes an offer, the homeowner will be scheduled for a hearing with the Appraisal Review Board. A video explaining how to file an online protest and use the residential iSettle system is available on the district's website at www.hcad.org under the HELP heading.

"Texas law requires that property be appraised at its January 1 market value," Altinger said. "The purpose of the appraisal is to allocate the tax burden fairly among all owners of taxable property. The actual amount of tax due is determined by the tax rate set in the fall by the governing body of each jurisdiction such as county, city, school district or MUD. The appraisal district has no involvement in the rate setting process."

Business personal property and some real property accounts may have later protest deadlines. If a later deadline applies to a particular account, the property owner will be mailed an official HCAD value notice on which the later protest deadline will be listed.

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If you have any questions concerning protesting your market value, please call the appraisal district's information center at 713.957.7800 or email help@hcad.org.

About HCAD

The Harris County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discovering and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit within the boundaries of the district. The district has more than 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately \$575 billion. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, serving approximately 500 taxing units, and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States. For further information, visit www.hcad.org.

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