



## Harris County Appraisal District News Release

For additional information contact Jack Barnett, Communications Officer, 713-957-5663

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### HCAD Mailing Homestead Exemption Confirmations

**Houston** —The Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) has mailed a confirmation postcard to all homeowners with a homestead exemption currently on file.

Homeowners should receive a postcard in their mailbox verifying they have a homestead exemption on their property. This is an annual mailing by HCAD to homeowners confirming their homeowner exemption is in place. An exemption excludes all or part of a property from taxation, so homeowners with an exemption are eligible for the tax break that exemption provides.

“Homestead exemptions are one of the easiest ways a homeowner can lower their property tax bill,” said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. “A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner’s primary residence on January 1.”

Homeowners do not need to do anything if the type of homestead exemption listed on the postcard is correct. HCAD will automatically renew their homestead exemption unless the property owner informs HCAD differently. Exemptions include Residence Homestead, Over-65, Disabled Person Exemptions, Disabled Veteran Exemptions and Surviving Spouse Exemptions for spouses of members of the U.S armed forces or first responders killed in the line of duty.

If the card is returned, HCAD will cancel the homestead exemption and send the owner a letter asking them to reapply if they believe they are still entitled to the exemption.

(more)

“We want to make it as easy as possible for homeowners to get the exemptions they are entitled to,” Altinger said. “If all the information on the card is correct, the homeowner does not have to do anything. However, if one of the homeowners has had a 65th birthday or become disabled, they may be eligible for one additional tax exemption, and if that’s the case, they should contact our office. Similarly, if they have sold the home or established a different primary residence, they need to contact us so we can cancel the exemption.”

A change in ownership also includes the death of an owner or the transfer of ownership through divorce proceedings. If either event has occurred during the year, the survivor or new owner should contact the appraisal district. Not reporting changes could mean substantial tax penalty liabilities later on.

Homeowners who have recently turned 65 or have qualified for disability under Social Security should also contact the appraisal district and apply for the additional exemption available to over-65 or totally disabled individuals.

For more information on homestead exemptions, over-65 exemptions, disabled person exemptions and disabled veteran exemption, call the HCAD Information Center at 713.957.7800, or go to the district’s website at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org) where you can find exemption information and applications under the *Forms* tab on the top tool bar.

### **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 approximately 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately \$588 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](http://www.hcad.org).

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