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When I started this journey, I promised you that I would work to solve complex issues with viable solutions.

As you are well aware, it has been quite the week regarding property valuations in Brazos County and across the State. Nearly everyone that I have spoken to has seen double-digit increases in their valuations which will significantly affect their property tax bill.

The question is whether there is a way to reduce or offset the impact of the valuation which in turn will reduce your tax bill.

The short answer is yes. There absolutely is a way. And, it can be found in the Texas tax code.

Under Texas law, school districts are required to offer a \$25k exemption on residence homesteads reducing the property's assessed value by \$25k for the school district portion of the tax bill (which will increase to \$40k if Prop 2 passes in the special election being held today)

However, the Texas Tax Code also has a provision that allows "Any taxing unit, including a city, county, school district, or special district, to have the option of deciding locally to offer a separate residence homestead exemption of up to 20 percent of a property's appraised value, but not less than \$5,000." Tex. Tax Code § 11.13(n)

Although the County has approved an over 65 homestead exemption, there is no general homestead exemption.

By acting on the optional homestead exemption provision, the County has an opportunity to provide immediate tax relief to the taxpayers.

Friday morning I took my findings and presented them to the County Judge. He readily agreed that this should be researched and taken into consideration.

I will formally request consideration by the full commissioner's court at the next meeting See less

