

Note to Chief Appraisers: This is a sample press release you may use as a template if you send out press releases to your local news media to alert taxpayers regarding important property tax information. Please feel free to localize the sample release by adding contact information for your appraisal district office; quotes from the chief appraiser; other helpful information such as dates, times and locations of ARB hearings; whether applications for property tax exemptions are required annually; or any specific instructions that apply to taxpayers in your appraisal district.

For Immediate Release

Date

Homeowners Have Payment Options for Property Taxes on Appreciating Home Values

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by taking advantage of the residence homestead tax deferral payment option and filing a tax deferral affidavit at the (NAME) Appraisal District.

This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed — but not cancelled — with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

Once the homeowner files the tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for the deferred taxes as long as that person owns and lives in the home. When the homeowner no longer owns and lives in the home, the deferred taxes and interest become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect the deferred taxes and interest. Additional penalties are possible.

For complete details about deferring taxes on your home's appreciating value, contact (NAME) Appraisal District at (INSERT APPRAISAL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION). Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.