

DID YOU KNOW...

Seniors, if you've lived in your home for at least 25 years, you could be eligible for the Low-Income Senior Long-Term Residency Exemption.

Amendment 11 authorizes cities and the county to grant full homestead property tax relief to low-income seniors who have lived in their home for at least 25 years. In short, it would eliminate the entire ad valorem property tax bill for the county and/or city portions for qualifying seniors. Homeowners who meet ALL of the following requirements would be eligible: (1) aged 65 and older on January 1; (2) have a household income not exceeding \$28,841 (adjusted annually); (3) own a home with a market value of less than \$250,000 for the initial year of application; and (4) have lived in the home for at least 25 years. Your city commission and county commission must each pass the exemption by a supermajority vote before this exemption can be offered. To date, only the cities of Cooper City, Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, Hollywood, Miramar, Oakland Park, Pembroke Pines, Pompano Beach, Sunrise and Weston have approved this additional exemption which applies to the city portion of the ad valorem property tax bill for qualified seniors for the 2018 tax year. To apply for this exemption, please contact our office at 954.357.6830. The deadline to file an application for any exemption is **March 1, 2018**. The late filing deadline is **September 18, 2018**.

Thinking about buying a new home? Learn about the benefits of Portability.

Portability allows eligible Homesteaded property owners to move their "Save Our Homes" (SOH) savings (up to \$500,000) from one property to another Florida property where they receive a new Homestead Exemption. To be eligible to move these SOH savings, the new property must receive the Homestead Exemption within two tax years - not calendar years - of the "abandonment" of the Homestead Exemption at the previous property. If you are applying for a new Homestead Exemption, you should also submit a Portability application with your Homestead Exemption application.

Note: Portability savings are not applied automatically. You must submit a Portability application. Portability applies to both upsizing and downsizing in value, based upon specified formulas. Portability does not require you to sell your previous home, but merely for you to no longer receive the Homestead Exemption on it. Additional information about Portability and a Portability estimator can be found on our website.

Renovating or Remodeling Your Home?

If you are in the process of renovating or making repairs to your home which require you to temporarily move out of the property, please contact our Customer Service & Exemptions Department at 954-357-6999 or kcardone@bcpa.net. We want to ensure your Homestead Exemption remains in place and we have your correct mailing address on file.



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your property appraiser. If I can be of any assistance, I can be reached at 954-357-6904 or martykiar@bcpa.net. Our office is located in the Governmental Center at 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 111, in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Regular office hours are Monday-Friday from 7am until 6pm. To better serve working families, our office will be open on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 7am to 2:30pm prior to the Homestead Exemption filing deadline of March 1, 2018. Our Outreach Department attends many events in the community, a list of which can be found on our website at www.bcpa.net/events.asp.

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar - martykiar@bcpa.net
Broward County Property Appraiser

GREAT NEWS FROM MARTY KIAR, PROPERTY APPRAISER

MARTY KIAR
BROWARD
COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER

JANUARY 2018



A Message from Marty Kiar

It is an honor serving as your property appraiser. As a lifelong Broward resident, it's my goal to make sure every Broward County property owner receives every tax saving exemption he or she is entitled to. In the past year, our outreach team attended over 800 community events and I have spoken to over 200 community groups in an effort to educate property owners about money saving exemptions available under Florida law. This newsletter will provide you with important information about some of these exemptions.

✓ WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?

All Florida permanent residents are potentially eligible for the Homestead Exemption under Florida law on their homes, condominiums, co-op units, and certain mobile home lots.

WHAT'S REQUIRED

- You must own the property and the property must be your permanent residence as of January 1 of the year for which you are applying;
- You must be a US citizen, permanent resident alien, or hold "PRUCOL" asylum/refugee status;
- You cannot have a Homestead or other residency-based exemption or tax credit in any other county, state, or country. Florida Statutes allow only one Homestead Exemption per "family unit." This means you are not legally entitled to claim the exemption in Broward if you or your spouse are currently receiving a residency-based tax exemption or credit on property anywhere else in the world;

- You cannot rent the property in violation of F.S. §196.061 (unless you are active duty US military).

FILING PROCESS

You may file for Homestead Exemption either online at www.bcpa.net, in person at our office, or at any of our outreach events.

To file, you must have the following documents showing the property is your permanent residence:

- Broward County Voter's Card or recorded Declaration of Domicile (form available at our office or on our website).
- Florida Driver's License (or for non-drivers only, an official Florida I.D. Card).
- For Non-US Citizens: Permanent Resident

Card, proof of asylum/refugee status, other documents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement showing your permanent residency in the United States; OR proof the property is the permanent residence of your US-born (US citizen) minor child or person legally dependent on you.

Note: Holders of work, student, investor, NAFTA, TPS, and other temporary US visas are not eligible for the Homestead Exemption under Florida law.

❗ Please see inside for additional exemption information.

❗ Please see the back page for Portability information.



Deployed Military Exemption

Provide military documentation showing applicant's dates of active duty military service during the immediate prior year outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of a designated military operation. For a list of designated military operations, please visit our website at www.bcpa.net/homestead.asp. A new application is needed each year.

This grants an additional exemption of your assessed value based upon the percent of the prior year you were deployed overseas in support of one of the specified military operations.

Disabled Ex-Servicemember or Surviving Spouse

Provide a copy of your Certificate of Disability from the US Government or the US Department of Veterans Affairs (or predecessor agency). The disability must be military service-connected and have occurred during a period of wartime service or by misfortune. The service-connected disability must be 10% or more as of January 1 of the year for which you are applying.

The surviving spouse of a disabled former servicemember may also claim this exemption, provided the spouse has not remarried. This exemption requires the applicant be a Florida resident. It will save you about \$100 each year in taxes.

Combat-Disabled Veteran

Significant additional savings are available if you have a combat-related disability as determined by the VA and you are age 65 or older as of January 1.

The exemption on the assessed value of the property is equal to the percentage of the combat-related disability. Note: The combat disability exemption does not extend to surviving spouses.

Please provide us with documented proof your disability was combat related and a certificate from the US Government or US Department of Veterans Affairs attesting to the percentage of your permanent disability.

Full Exemption for Veteran's Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability

A certificate from the US Government or US Department of Veterans Affairs. Any honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected total and permanent disability, surviving spouses of qualifying veterans and spouses of Florida resident veterans who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the US Armed Forces are entitled to an exemption on real estate used and owned as a homestead.

i For a complete list of exemptions, please visit our website at www.bcpa.net or contact our Customer Service Department at 954-357-6830.

Surviving Spouses of First Responders Who Died in the Line of Duty

A total exemption also exists for surviving spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and other first responders who died in the line of duty while employed as a first responder in the state of Florida.

Deadline to file an application for any 2018 exemption is
MARCH 1, 2018
Late filing deadline is **September 18, 2018**



Property Tax Exemption for Certain Totally and Permanently Disabled First Responders and Surviving Spouses

Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by a person who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury or injuries sustained in the line of duty while serving as a first responder in Florida or during an operation in another state or country authorized by a Florida agency is exempt from taxation if the first responder is a permanent resident of this state on January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is being claimed.

For the purposes of this exemption, the legislation has defined "total and permanent disability" as an impairment of the mind or body that renders a first responder unable to engage in any substantial gainful occupation and that is reasonably certain to continue throughout his or her life.

Surviving Spouse: Any real estate owned and used as a homestead by the surviving spouse of a first responder who died, and who had been receiving this tax exemption, is exempt from taxation as long as the surviving spouse does not remarry.

Filing Deadline: March 1, 2018

Late Filing Deadline: September 18, 2018