

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 county 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

Property Owners Can Protest Property Appraisal Values

Property owners who disagree with the (NAME) County Appraisal District's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

A property owner must file a written notice of protest before May 1 for a single-family residence with a homestead exemption; before June 1 for other property types; or within 30 days after the appraisal district mails the taxpayer a notice of appraised value, whichever is later for your property type. The ARB will begin hearing taxpayer protests on (DATE).

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, taxing units will use these appraisals to set property tax rates.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district. In counties with 120,000 or more population, the local district administrative judge appoints ARB members. Otherwise, the appraisal district's board of directors appoints them. Property owners may protest any of the following issues to the ARB:

- the appraised or market value of the property;
- unequal appraisal of the owner's property;
- inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
- denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- denial of special appraisal, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal;
- determination that agricultural or timber land has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax;
- identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the property is located;
- determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property; or
- any other action of the appraisal district office or ARB that adversely affects the owner.

The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property owner written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. The law contains specific timelines and procedures for both the property owner and the ARB throughout the appraisal protest process. These are detailed in the Comptroller's publication, *Property Taxpayer Remedies*.

Copies are available from (NAME) County Appraisal District at (INSERT CAD CONTACT INFORMATION). The publication is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.