

PROPERTY INFORMATION Senior Property Tax Savings

Sheri Thomas, ASSESSOR-RECORDER

One of the fundamental drivers behind the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 was that "older Californians should not be priced out of their homes through high taxes". While Proposition 13 remains in place and protects seniors from dramatic increases in property taxes, it doesn't always seem that way. Review the information in this flyer and take a look at your property tax bill to see if there are ways you can reduce your property tax bill.

HOMEOWNERS' EXEMPTION

The Homeowners' Exemption provides a \$7,000 reduction in taxable value for a qualifying owneroccupied home. This equates to about \$77 a year in tax savings.

To claim the exemption the homeowner must make a one-time filing with the county assessor where the property is located. More information and Homeowners' Exemption claim forms for Santa Cruz County can be found on the Assessor's website at: <u>www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/asr</u>

If the claim is filed by 5:00 PM on February 15th, the full \$7,000 will be exempted for the upcoming fiscal year. If the claim is filed between February 16th and December 10th, then 80% of the exemption is available for that year, and the full exemption would be available for the next year.

To see if you are receiving this exemption, check your tax bill under "Values and Exemptions" on the left side. You can also review tax bills online at the Tax Collector's website at <u>www.co.santacruz.ca.us/ttc</u>

	VALUES & EXEMPTIONS	
LAND		\$334,108
IMPROVEMENTS		\$222,735
TOTAL VALUE		\$556,843
LESS EXEMPTION		
Homeowner's		\$7,000
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE	E	\$549,843



Property Tax Postponement (PTP)

The State Controller's Office's (SCO) Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program allows homeowners who are seniors – or who are blind or have a disability – to apply to defer payment of property taxes on their principal residence. The applicant must own the home, occupy it as their primary residence, have at least 40% equity in the home, and have an annual household income of \$51,762 or less (among other requirements).

The deferment of property taxes is secured by a lien against the property which must eventually be repaid.

The application filing period for the 2023-24 tax year runs October 1, 2023, through February 10, 2024. Funds are limited, and applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

For applications or more information visit: <u>www.ptp.sco.ca.gov</u>

For more information about Property Tax Postponement, call 1-800-952-5661 or visit www.ptp.sco.ca.gov.



Senior Property Tax Savings

School Bonds and Parcel Taxes

Do I have to pay all these school fees that are on my property tax bill?

While there are NO exemptions available for school bonds, there MAY be a senior exemption for certain school parcel taxes.

School Bonds are an "ad valorem" tax which means that the amount you pay is based on the taxable value of your property. These fees appear under the "BASIC PROPERTY TAXES" section of your tax bill, with a rate, expressed as a percent, and an amount that is the product of the percent applied to the assessed value. There are no exemptions available for items that appear in this section.

School Parcel Tax are a non ad valorem tax. They appear as a flat fee in the "OTHER CHARGES" section of your property tax bill.

Taxpayers age 65 and older may be exempted from paying some parcel taxes, provided that an enabling exemption is included in the wording approved by the ballot measure.

So how do I get an exemption?

If your tax bill shows a parcel tax that you believe might qualify for an exemption, *you must contact the SCHOOL DISTRICT that implemented the charge.* Application deadlines vary from June 1st–June 30th. Some school districts with senior parcel tax exemptions include:

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

www.loma.k12.ca.us/Page/112

Los Gatos – Saratoga Union High School District

www.lgsuhsd.org/district_information/parcel_tax_renewal

Live Oak School District

https://www.losd.ca/departments/business-department/your-parcel-tax-dollars-at-work

Santa Cruz City Schools

www.sccs.net/community/bond_measures__parcel_taxes

Scotts Valley Unified School District

www.scottsvalleyusd.org/page/measure-a-exemption-application



Are you a 100% disabled veteran? Please go to our website and learn about additional property tax savings you may qualify for. www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/asr \rightarrow Often Used Forms \rightarrow Disabled Veterans' Exemption



GENERAL TAX RATE 1.00000000% \$55,498,42 2009 REF 1999 CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BOND .00439400% \$24,16 1998 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .00194000% \$10,66 2013 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .00194000% \$10,66 2016 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02394000% \$11,61 2016 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .00167300% \$9,20 2016 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02394000% \$13,16 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,16 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,16 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,16 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,10 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,10 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,10 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02422200% \$133,10 2019 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND .02370300% \$10,024 TOTAL BAS	TAX DISTRIBUTION BY A	GENCY	
(adjusted for rounding) OTHER CHARGES No. COUNTY MODEURI 0 & DISEASE ASSESSMENT \$17.10 SC CITY CLEAN RIVER, BEACHES &OCEAN TAX \$28.00 SC CITY STORM WATER ENTERPRISE UTILITY \$21.24 CTTN NO. 2016.1 LIBRARY EACULITIES SC CITY ELEM SCH DIST PARCEL TAX MEASURE U \$208.00	GENERAL TAX RATE 2009 REF 1999 CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BOND 1998 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND 2013 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2016 SANTA CRUZ ELEM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND 1998 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND 2013 REF 2005 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2016 SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND 2019 REFUNDING 98/04 A&B CABRILLO BONDS	1.00000000% .00439400% .00194000% .01142300% .02394000% .00167300% .02167300% .02422200% .02370300%	AMOUNT \$5,498.42 \$24.16 \$10.66 \$62.90 \$131.62 \$9.20 \$61.36 \$133.16 \$133.16 \$133.16
	(adjusted for rounding) OTHER CHARGES NO. GOUNTLANDOWN O & DISEASE ASSESSMENT SC CITY CLEAN RIVER, BEACHES & OCEAN TAX SC CITY STORM WATER ENTERPRISE UTILITY CTD NO. 2016-11 BRARY FACILITIES	1.10245600%	\$6,061.64 \$17.10 \$28.00 \$21.24 \$49.50 \$208.00 \$110.00