



County Auditors' Association of Ohio

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSUMER ALERT: Viral Video Promotes Fake Property Tax Form

The County Auditors Association is warning older homeowners about a viral YouTube video spreading false claims about a nonexistent federal property tax relief program.

The video claims that Congress passed a law providing significant property tax savings for older homeowners. It directs viewers to call their county auditor and request a "Senior Homeowner Tax Review Request" form "as mandated by federal law." There is no such form or federal law.

County Auditors across the state have received an increase in calls and emails from residents asking for the form. Some Ohioans have become frustrated after learning that the video's claims are false.

"County Auditors understand how concerning rising property taxes are for Ohio homeowners, particularly our seniors, and we want residents to know that this video is simply not accurate," said County Auditors Association of Ohio President Cindy Waugh. "There is no federally mandated 'Senior Homeowner Tax Review Request' form. There are legitimate property tax relief programs available to qualifying Ohio homeowners, and we encourage residents to contact their County Auditor's Office or visit their County Auditor's official website for the most current information about programs that are available. Ohioans should also be cautious about misleading claims online and should never provide personal or financial information to anyone claiming to offer special property tax relief."

The video used artificial intelligence and made significantly misleading commentary to make its claims seem credible. The County Auditors encourage Ohioans to be cautious of online content promising large tax savings, government payments or debt elimination, particularly when the content does not direct viewers to an official government website.

Ohio does have legitimate property tax relief programs established under state law, including the Homestead Exemption. The program is available to qualifying homeowners, including certain Ohioans who are age 65 or older, homeowners who are permanently and totally disabled, qualifying disabled veterans and certain surviving spouses.

In addition, Ohio House Bill 479 recently authorized a one-time, state-funded property tax reduction for eligible Homestead Exemption recipients for 2027. The exact amount will be determined after county auditors certify the number of eligible recipients statewide. Estimates have placed the reduction at



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approximately \$450 to \$500 per recipient, with the credit expected to appear on first-half property tax bills in 2027.

Existing Homestead Exemption recipients do not need to complete a separate House Bill 479 application.

Ohioans should not pay anyone for access to the supposed government forms or provide personal information through unofficial websites.

For information about the Homestead Exemption, eligibility requirements, or to apply, contact your County Auditor's Office.