



ELECTION DAY

MAY 6, 2017

Dear ALVORD ISD Neighbor,

The Alvord Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously voted to call a bond election to be held May 6, 2017.

The election, totaling \$13.6 million, includes new construction and renovations. Please refer to the enclosed Fact Sheet for specific information about the proposed bond projects.

Important Tax Information for Voters Over Age 65

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence of a person 65 years of age or older may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value, unless the homeowner makes significant improvements.

What does this mean for homeowners 65 and over?

For example, if a homeowner paid \$1,137.53 in Alvord school taxes in 2016 and this homeowner has the Age 65 Freeze on his or her home, the homeowner will continue to pay no more than \$1,137.53 per year in school taxes regardless if the bond election is successful, and bonds are subsequently issued, unless the homeowner makes significant improvements to that home.

How are my property taxes determined?

The Wise County Appraisal District, not Alvord ISD, is responsible for setting home values. If you have not filed for your Over 65 Exemption, call (940)627-3081 for more information.

Early voting for this election is from April 24th to May 2nd from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, with extended hours on Tuesday April 25th and May 2nd from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Alvord City Hall. Election Day will occur on Saturday, May 6 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm at Alvord City Hall.

Please educate yourself about what is proposed in the bond election. If you have any questions, please contact any of us through the District at (940)427-5975.

Thank you,

Alvord ISD Board of Trustees



“Over 65” Homestead Exemption Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the “Over 65” or “Senior Citizen Exemption?”

Taxpayers who are over 65 or disabled qualify for a tax exemption--sometimes referred to as the “senior citizen exemption.” This exemption applies to the homestead of the taxpayer receiving the exemption. Once a property owner receives an over-65/disability homestead exemption, there is a tax ceiling on their total school taxes.

2. What is a tax ceiling?

It is a limit on the amount of taxes you must pay on your residence. If you qualify your home for a 65 and over or disabled person homestead exemption for school taxes, the school taxes on that home can't increase as long as you own and live in that home. The tax ceiling is the amount you pay in the year that you qualified for the 65 or older or disabled person exemption. This benefit is referred to as a tax “ceiling” because taxes can go lower than the ceiling, but not higher.

3. What if my home value goes up, will my taxes increase?

The appraised value can change, but the school taxes on your homestead cannot increase. Normal repairs, maintenance and the economic impact of the market cannot increase the amount of taxes you will pay once a tax ceiling is in place on that homestead. Therefore, if this bond election is successful, it will not have an impact on the tax bill for homesteads that are receiving the senior citizen exemption, unless you make significant improvements to your home.

4. What is considered a significant improvement to your home?

A significant improvement would include an improvement to your home that exceeds normal repair or maintenance. For example, building a swimming pool or adding on a garage or game room to the house would be significant improvements.

5. Does the exemption go into effect automatically?

No, you need to complete an application. You can call and request one from the Wise County Appraisal District at (940)627-3081.

6. When do I need to apply?

If you qualify for an age 65 and over homestead exemption, you may apply to the appraisal district up to one year after the date you turn 65 or qualify for disability, or up to one year after the taxes are due, whichever is later. If your application is approved, you will receive the exemption for the entire year in which you turn 65 or become disabled and for future years as long as you own a qualified homestead.

7. Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had an age 65 and over homestead exemption on your home in 2016, you won't need to reapply for 2017. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file for an exemption for 2016. If you are 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you turned 65.