

# Appealing the Value or Classification of Your Property

## Informal Appeal Options - Contact Your Assessor

If you have questions or disagree with the classification or estimated market value for your property for the 2018 assessment, please contact your assessor's office first to discuss your concerns. Often your issues can be resolved at this level. Contact information for your assessor's office is on the other side of this notice.

Some jurisdictions choose to hold open book meetings to allow property owners to discuss their concerns with the assessor. If this is an option available to you, the meeting time(s) and location(s) will be indicated on the other side of this notice.

## Formal Appeal Options

If your questions or concerns are not resolved after meeting with your assessor, you have two formal appeal options:

### Option 1 - The Boards of Appeal and Equalization

You may appear before the Boards of Appeal and Equalization in person, through a letter, or through a representative authorized by you. The meeting times and locations are on the other side of this notice. **You must have presented your case to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization BEFORE appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.**

#### Step 1 - Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

If you believe your value or classification is incorrect, you may bring your case to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Please contact your assessor's office for more information. If your city or township no longer has a Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (as indicated on the other side of this notice) you may appeal directly to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

#### Step 2 - County Board of Appeal and Equalization

If the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization did not resolve your concerns, you may bring your case to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Please contact the county assessor's office to get on the agenda or for more information.

### Option 2 - Minnesota Tax Court

Depending on the type of appeal, you may take your case to either the Small Claims Division or the Regular Division of Tax Court. You have until April 30 of the year in which taxes are payable to file an appeal with the Small Claims Division or the Regular Division of Tax Court for your valuation and classification.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Tax Court:

**Phone:** 651-539-3260 or for MN Relay call 1-800-627-3529

**On the web:** [www.taxcourt.state.mn.us](http://www.taxcourt.state.mn.us)

## Definitions

**Exclusion for Veterans With Disabilities** - Veterans with qualifying disabilities may be eligible for a valuation exclusion on their homestead property.

**Estimated Market Value** - This value is what the assessor estimates your property would likely sell for on the open market.

**Green Acres** - Applies to class 2a agricultural property that is facing increasing values due to pressures not related to the agricultural value of the land. This value is determined by looking at what comparable agricultural land is selling for in areas where there is no development pressure. The taxes on the higher value are deferred until the property is sold, transferred, withdrawn, or no longer qualifies for the program.

**Homestead Market Value Exclusion** - Applies to residential homesteads and to the house, garage, and one acre of land for agricultural homesteads. The exclusion is a maximum of \$30,400 at \$76,000 of market value, and then decreases by nine percent for value over \$76,000. The exclusion phases out for properties valued at \$413,800 or more.

**JOBZ** - Qualifying businesses within a Job Opportunity Business Zone may be eligible for a partial property tax exemption.

**New Improvements** - This is the assessor's estimate of the value of new or previously unassessed improvements you have made to your property.

**Plat Deferment** - For land that has been recently platted (divided into individual lots) but not yet improved with a structure, the increased market value due to platting is phased in over time. If construction begins, or if the lot is sold before expiration of the phase-in period, the lot will be assessed at full market value in the next assessment.

**Rural Preserve** - Applies to class 2b rural vacant land that is part of a farm homestead or that had previously been enrolled in Green Acres, if it is contiguous to agricultural land enrolled in Green Acres. This value may not exceed the Green Acres value for tilled lands. The taxes on the higher value are deferred so long as the property qualifies.

**Taxable Market Value** - This is the value that your property taxes are actually based on, after all reductions.