

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM WINKLER COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Public health concerns and the safety of property owners and appraisal district staff is of utmost importance. As the appraisal district continues to try to function to meet all property owners' needs, along with federal, state local requirements, please be assured that we are doing the very best we can in the present situation concerning COVID-19.

At this time, the appraisal district office has locked the doors but is continuing to operate. Phone calls are being answered by a staff person in the office or by an automatic forwarding system. Emails are being processed in the order in which they are received. Mail is being processed daily and payments are being posted. **The drop-box, located on the east side of the front door, is emptied daily.**

Appraisal districts across the state are facing many challenges as property owners receive notices of value. Currently, to the best of our knowledge, all state mandated deadlines and procedures are still in place. Unless and until changes are ordered by the governor or directives are received from the Comptroller of Public Accounts, appraisal districts must continue with a "business as usual" approach while still considering federal, state, and local health guidelines and restrictions. Each chief appraiser must assess their existing resources and develop a plan that will allow property owners' rights and remedies to be protected and still be in compliance with all regulations. In some districts, this may require additional electronic equipment that would allow for virtual protests or other necessary meetings that cannot be held in person. A lot of decisions are yet to be made as we go through this crisis.

As most property owners are aware, it is almost time for notices of value to be mailed to property owners in the district. Winkler County Appraisal District plans to mail notices of value on or around May 8. A form for you to complete, if you choose to protest, will be included with the notice of value. At this time, it is the plan of the Winkler County Appraisal District to accept electronically submitted protests as well as those sent by mail. Informal protest meetings will be conducted by phone and protests will be worked in the order in which they are received. Solid plans for formal Appraisal Review Board protest hearings are yet to be determined. More information will be provided to the public as governmental guidelines are developed.

Please call the Winkler County Appraisal District at 432-586-2832 if you have questions, or contact us through email at winklercad10@yahoo.com.