



GALVESTON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Tommy Watson, Chief Appraiser

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Dear Property Owner,

As you are likely aware, the Texas Education Agency has issued a directive annexing La Marque ISD into Texas City Independent School Districts effective July 1, 2016. Staff and administration are working diligently to follow this directive in the most efficient manner possible to pursue the common vision and goal of providing a quality education for all children in the expanded TCISD.

As this endeavor continues, it is important to keep property owners and citizens aware of changes that will result from the consolidation of the school districts. One area in which property owners will see a change involves property taxes. Please find below a few important matters to consider which will take effect beginning with tax year 2016.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME MATTERS INVOLVING PROPERTY TAXES WILL NOT CHANGE:

- ✓ The calendar of events for property taxes will not change. Tax bills will continue to be sent out in October of each year (or as soon as practicable). Taxes for each tax year can be paid without penalty or interest if paid before February 1 of the year following each tax year. (Example: Taxes for tax year 2016 can be paid without penalty or interest if paid before February 1, 2017)
- ✓ All of the State mandated exemptions currently in place for homeowners (residence homesteads, Over 65 residence homesteads, disability homesteads, disabled veteran homestead exemptions, etc.) will remain in place.
- ✓ Homeowners eligible for over 65 or disability exemption will still be able to pay their property taxes in four installments, if they so choose. Further details on this option can be obtained from the Texas City ISD Tax Office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME MATTERS INVOLVING PROPERTY TAXES WILL CHANGE:

☞ Owners of property located within the boundaries of La Marque ISD will now receive **TWO** tax bills rather than one tax bill. Property owners will continue to receive a tax bill from the Galveston County Tax Office which will include the county, city, college and drainage district (if applicable), but school taxes will no longer be included in the Galveston County tax bill beginning with the 2016 tax year.

☞ School taxes will now be billed and collected by Texas City ISD Tax Office. This will also include taxes (if any) from prior years due and owing to La Marque ISD. The Galveston County Tax Office and the Texas City ISD Tax Office have already commenced planning the data conversion to have the existing La Marque ISD tax data and records transferred from Galveston County to the Texas City ISD Tax Office information system. Please also note that the district's delinquent tax attorneys will remain the same and can be contacted with any questions regarding delinquent taxes.

☞ The option to pay current year taxes in a split payment (1/2 before November 30 and the remaining 1/2 by June 30) will no longer exist. The split payment option is a local option and has not been adopted by the Texas City ISD Board of Trustees. As in the past, the Texas City ISD tax office will certainly work with property owners to minimize the effect of this change, assisting property owners by accepting partial payments.

☞ Given the optional homestead exemption of \$5,000 or 20% of appraised value adopted by the Texas City ISD Board of Trustees, homeowners will see a reduction in the property taxes on their residence homestead. The amount of savings will vary for each property owner based upon the taxable value of the property as set by the Galveston Central Appraisal District.

We know there is an element of uncertainty associated with the changes ahead. But with any change, there is opportunity for growth and improvement. We look forward to working with property owners in the newly formed TCISD school district boundaries for a bright and promising future for our children and the communities at large.

We welcome any questions or feedback you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you for your time and courtesy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tommy Watson
Chief Appraiser
Galveston Central Appraisal District