

Welcome to Galveston County Texas



Established May 15, 1838  
by an article approved by  
Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas

## New Resident Handbook

Vehicle and Voter Registration & Property Tax Collection

*Courtesy of*



**Cheryl E. Johnson, RTA**  
Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector  
Administrative Offices  
722 Moody Avenue  
Galveston, Texas 77550  
1-877-766-2284 [www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com)  
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from the desk of  
**Cheryl E. Johnson**  
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409-766-2479

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Website:  
www.galcotax.com

Full Time Locations

Monday-Friday  
8 am to 5 pm

722 Moody Avenue  
(21st Street)  
Galveston

11730 State Highway 6  
Santa Fe

174 Calder Drive  
League City

2516 Texas Avenue  
Texas City

Satellite Locations

(closed Noon-1 for lunch):

Thursday & Friday:

Friendswood City Hall  
910 S Friendswood Dr.  
Friendswood

Third Tuesday Monthly  
from 7 am to 3 pm

946 Noble Carl Road  
Crystal Beach  
(2 miles from Ferry Landing)

*Welcome to Galveston County!*

*Our 13 cities and unincorporated areas comprise a land area of 430 square miles, 47 of which is the City of Galveston, the official County Seat and the location of the Galveston County Courthouse and home of the Galveston County Tax Office.*

*The Galveston County Tax Office provides a variety of services including motor vehicle registration and titling on behalf of the TxDMV, voter registration on behalf of the Secretary of State, property tax and various fee collections for the County and many local governments.*

*The information provided in this packet is intended to assist you with your transition as it pertains to registering your vehicle in the County, registering to vote and payment of property taxes once you purchase a home. Please let me know what you find useful and what not-so-much so that it can be improved for the next new resident! Our email address is shown at left.*

*Most of our services are available online and I encourage you to take advantage of 24/7 access at [www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com). Certain fees are charged for online payments (i.e. credit and debt card) and, although we will continue to examine ways of lowering those charges, please understand that governments cannot absorb the credit and debit card company fees that are absorbed by local merchants.*

*We have four full-time offices (Galveston, League City, Santa Fe and Texas City). Our Friendswood Satellite Office is open Thursday and Friday and Crystal Beach one day each month. Addresses and other contact information is included at left.*

*On behalf of the entire Galveston County Tax Office team, we are glad you chose our County as your home. We look forward to serving you!*

*Cheryl E. Johnson*

\* All offices close the second Friday of November every year for training

# Registering Your Vehicle in Galveston County

*Services provided on behalf of the*  
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

You have 30 days after moving to Texas to register your vehicle in the County of residence. **You have 90 days to obtain a Texas drivers license and we do NOT provide this service!** Texas is one of five states that separates vehicles from drivers thus you will need to contact the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) at one of the numbers shown below. You will need to take proof of insurance, TxDMV registration receipt and proof of Social Security number to the DPS office convenient for you. Those in the Galveston County area are included below:

Galveston DPS Office	6812 Broadway	(409) 740-0031
Texas City DPS Office	1325 N. Amburn Rd.	(409) 933-1130
Alvin DPS Office	113 E. Sealy	(281) 585-4525
Houston/Clear Lake	111 Tristar (off SH 3)	(281) 486-8351

## **Registration & Titling Your Vehicle**

The Galveston County Tax Office (GCTO) provides registration and titling services for more than 275,000 motor vehicles on behalf of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. After you have registered your vehicle in the County, you will receive renewal notices from TxDMV, typically six (6) weeks before expiration.

Keep an eye on your windshield and come on in when you receive the renewal—you will not lose a month by coming in early. You may also register your vehicle multiple years—ask our Customer Service Reps for additional information. Sign up for email reminders from TxDMV online at [www.txdmv.gov](http://www.txdmv.gov). Have your plate number or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) handy.

In order to register your vehicle in Texas, proof of Texas liability insurance or out-of-state liability insurance is required. If using out-of-state insurance, you must provide the declaration page of the policy. *In an effort to improve customer satisfaction, we accept out-of-state checks but be prepared to show identification!* All TxDMV /vehicle related forms referred to in this document are included as are other forms we believe may be useful to you.

A base registration fee of \$50.75 is charged for passenger vehicles and light trucks (6,000 lbs. or less). Fees for trucks over 6,000 lbs. is included below. Trailers up to 6,000 lbs. are charged a base fee of \$45.00. A complete fee schedule is included on the following page.

## **First Time Registration in Texas**

New residents from out of State will pay an additional \$90.00 to register their vehicles in Texas and an additional \$33.00 to obtain a Texas title. You will need to do the following:

1. Have your vehicle inspected at a TxDPS licensed inspection station. You must have your vehicle inspected in Galveston County in order to register it here. You may locate a station near you online at [www.TxDPS.state.tx.us](http://www.TxDPS.state.tx.us). The station will require proof of liability insurance. Upon passage of the safety inspection, you will be provided a vehicle inspection “green slip” (see sample—in white—at the bottom of the following page).
2. Bring the following to our office:
  - A. Proof of insurance, title or registration in your name
  - B. Current driver’s license (out-of-state)
  - C. TxDPS vehicle inspection “green slip”

**Fee schedule:**

Passenger and Light Truck (up to 6,000 lb):	
State Base Fee	\$50.75
DPS Insurance Fee	1.00
Automation Fee	1.00
County Road and Bridge Fund	<u>+10.00</u>
	\$62.75
Trailers (up to 6,000 lb):	
State Base Fee	\$45.00
DPS Insurance Fee	1.00
Automation Fee	1.00
County Road and Bridge Fund	<u>+10.00</u>
	\$57.00
Mopeds and Motorcycles:	
State Base Fee	\$30.00
DPS Insurance Fee	1.00
Automation Fee	1.00
County Road and Bridge Fund	<u>+10.00</u>
	\$42.00

Trucks over 6,000 fees are based on gross vehicle weight as shown below:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Base Fee</u>	<u>Local Fees</u>	<u>Total Registration Fee</u>
6,001 – 10,000	\$ 54.00	\$12.00	\$66.00
10,001 – 18,000	\$110.00	\$12.00	\$122.00
18,001 – 25,999	\$205.00	\$12.00	\$217.00
26,000 – 40,000	\$340.00	\$12.00	\$352.00
40,001 – 54,999	\$534.00	\$12.00	\$546.00
55,000 – 70,000	\$740.00	\$12.00	\$755.00
70,001 – 80,000	\$840.00	\$12.00	\$852.00
Over 80,000	Varies	\$12.00	Varies

Use the 130-U form shown on the following page to register and title your vehicle in Texas. Titling it here enables you to transfer title within the State in the future. It is not required. You may just register the vehicle and you may also just title it. Useful forms are included on the following pages.

If you need to have a friend or family member with a different last name to represent you in our office, be sure to complete the authorization section on the *Return of Title/Registration Application for Additional Information or Payment* form (last form provided in the vehicle section).

Disabled placards are available for those with temporary or permanent disabilities and are provided at no cost to disabled veterans.

Sample of Inspection Station “green slip” →



**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLICATION FOR TEXAS CERTIFICATE OF TITLE**

**This form must be completed and submitted to your County Tax Assessor-Collector accompanied by any required application fee, supporting documents, registration fee if applicable, and any motor vehicle tax due. An application form may be reproduced or faxed. A completed form must contain the original signature of the buyer. The seller's signature may be reproduced or faxed.**

**AVAILABLE HELP**

- For assistance in completing this form contact your County Tax Assessor-Collector.
- For information about motor vehicle sales and use tax, or emission fees, contact the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Tax Assistance Section, at 1-800-252-1382 toll free nationwide, or call 512/463-4600.
- For title or registration information, contact your County Tax Assessor-Collector or the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles at 512/465-3000 or 1-888-368-4689.

**With a few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information the department collects about you. The Texas Government Code entitles you to receive and review the information on request, and to request that the department correct any information about you that is deemed incorrect. Please contact the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles at 512/465-3000 or 1-888-368-4689 for details.**

**NOTICE**

The sales and use tax must be paid to the County Tax Assessor-Collector within 30 days from the date of purchase or entry of the vehicle into Texas. A \$2.50 fee for transfer of current registration is due in addition to the title application fees and other applicable fees. If not currently registered, registration fees will be due.

A 6.25 percent motor vehicle sales or use tax is imposed on the sale price (less trade-in allowance) of motor vehicles for use in Texas, or of a motor vehicle purchased outside of the state and later brought into this state by a Texas resident.

Standard Presumptive Value (SPV) applies to private-party sales of most used motor vehicles purchased or brought into Texas. The tax is computed on the greater of the sales price or 80 percent of the SPV on the day of title application.

New Texas residents are subject to a \$90 use tax on a vehicle brought into this state that was previously registered to the new resident in another state or foreign country. This is in lieu of the 6.25 percent use tax imposed on a Texas resident.

There is a \$10 gift tax when a person receives a motor vehicle as a gift from an immediate family member, guardian or a decedent's estate. A vehicle donated to, or given by, a nonprofit service organization qualifying under IRC 501(c)(3) is also taxed as a gift. Both donor and recipient must sign the Comptroller's joint affidavit **Form 14-317, Affidavit of Motor Vehicle Gift Transfer**. The affidavit and the title application must be submitted in person by either the donor or recipient.

A transaction in which a motor vehicle is transferred to another person without payment of consideration and one that does not qualify as a gift described above is a sale and will be subject to tax calculated on the vehicle's standard presumptive value.

A late penalty equal to 5 percent of the tax will be charged if the tax or surcharge is paid from 1 to 30 calendar days late; if more than 30 calendar days late, the penalty will be 10 percent of the tax. Minimum penalty is \$1.

In addition to the late tax payment penalty, Texas Transportation Code provides for an escalating delinquent transfer penalty for failure to apply for title within 30 days from the date of title assignment. Submit this application, along with proper evidence of ownership, and a copy of valid proof of financial responsibility, such as a liability insurance card or policy.

All new residents applying for a Texas certificate of title and registration for a motor vehicle must file at the County Tax Assessor-Collector of the county in Texas where the applicant resides within 30 days of establishing residency. Texas law requires that all vehicles, previously registered and titled or registered in another state or country, be inspected for safety and the vehicle identification number verified before such vehicles may be registered in Texas. These inspections must be made by a state appointed Safety Inspection Station that will complete an out-of-state Vehicle Identification Certificate. This form must be submitted to the County Tax Assessor-Collector with your application for registration and certificate of title.



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

# Application for Registration Purposes Only

VTR-272 (Rev. 11/09) Page 1 of 2

For vehicles titled outside Texas that are to be registered in Texas

Do not surrender an original out-of-state title with this application.

Submit the completed application, a photocopy of proof of liability insurance, and other applicable documentation (see page 2), to your local county tax assessor-collector's office. A list of county tax offices may be found at our Web site: [www.txdmv.gov](http://www.txdmv.gov).

**NOTE: A Texas certificate of title will not be issued for the vehicle described below.** The receipt issued upon filing this application will serve as your registration receipt and proof of application for registration only.

APPLICANT INFORMATION - Type or print only				
Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Day Phone		E-mail		
Name of Lienholder (as shown on Out-of-State Title)		Lienholder Address		
City		State	Zip Code	
VEHICLE AND TITLE INFORMATION				
Out of State Plate	State of Issuance	Year	Make	Body Style
Vehicle Identification Number		Out-of-State Title Number	Title issued by State/Country of	
AFFIDAVIT - State law makes falsifying information on this application a third-degree felony.				
My signature indicates the information above is true and correct.				
Owner/Agent Signature _____		Date _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if the vehicle is located outside Texas, is eligible for registration and you <u>confirmed</u> the Vehicle Identification No.				
<b>IMPORTANT:</b> Self-certification of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is allowed for military personnel, students and owners of apportioned vehicles if a VIN verification form issued by a Texas state-approved safety inspection station is not included with the submission of this application. See page 2 for more information. I declare that:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In making this self-certification, I <b>physically inspected</b> the vehicle described above and found the permanent Vehicle Identification Number to be as indicated on this application.</li> <li>♦ At the time this vehicle is being registered in Texas, the vehicle is <b>not located in Texas</b>, and is exempt from the Safety Inspection requirements of Texas.</li> <li>♦ I am submitting a photocopy of my evidence of ownership to verify that I am the vehicle owner, or authorized agent of the vehicle owner. Mark the photocopied evidence as a "COPY".</li> </ul>				
FOREIGN VEHICLE - If you have imported the vehicle, check all that apply:				
I declare the above described vehicle on which I am requesting issuance of Registration Purposes Only qualifies under the following provisions as referenced by the attached DOT Form HS-7 or U.S. Customs Form CF7501:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle is 25 or more years old.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle complies with all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was imported into the United States for a temporary period by a nonresident, does not conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Standards, and cannot be sold in the U.S. <b>VALID FOR ONE REGISTRATION PERIOD ONLY.</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle was imported into the U.S. by a member of the armed forces of a foreign country on assignment in the U.S., does not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Standards, and cannot be sold in the U.S.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Other.				

Instructions on page 2 for military, students, and owners of apportioned and foreign vehicles.

## Instructions

### Foreign Vehicle

- ◆ Owners of foreign vehicles brought into Texas must submit U.S. Customs Form HS-7 or CF 7501 to apply for Registration Purposes Only.
- ◆ Check the appropriate box(es) in the Foreign Vehicle section on page 1 if you imported the vehicle.

### Vehicle Identification Number Verification

This application must be accompanied by a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) verification form issued by a Texas state-approved safety inspection station, or confirmation of self-certification of the VIN (on page 1 of application) for the following transactions:

#### Military personnel located outside Texas

Active duty military personnel who are Texas residents with stations located outside Texas may use this form for self-certification of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), in lieu of the VIN verification form, if:

- ◆ The vehicle is located outside Texas, and
- ◆ The form is verified by the Provost Marshal. If the form is not verified by the Provost Marshal, you must provide verification that the applicant is currently stationed outside Texas. **Verification may consist of military orders, etc., that indicate the current duty station of the applicant.**

#### Students located outside Texas

Texas residents who are students located outside Texas may use this form for self-certification of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), in lieu of the VIN verification form, if:

- ◆ The vehicle is located outside Texas, and
- ◆ You provide verification that the applicant is a student currently enrolled in an accredited college or university outside Texas. **Verification may consist of a tuition receipt, enrollment form, student identification card, etc., that confirms current enrollment.**

#### Apportioned Vehicle

This self-certification form may be used by the owner of an apportioned vehicle. Submit the completed application, photocopy of proof of liability insurance, and any other applicable documentation.

- ◆ Commercial vehicle owners must submit a weight certificate.

**Submit this application to your County Tax Assessor-Collector, with all supporting documentation, appropriate fees and completed Form 130-U.**

# Application for Persons with Disabilities Parking Placard and/or License Plate

County Use Only	
Receipt of statutory fee acknowledged	
_____ License plate issued	
_____ Parking Placard(s) issued	_____ Date
County #	Date

Complete application, submit payment (if required) in the form of a personal check, money order or cashier's check to your local County Tax Assessor-Collector's office. Do not mail cash.

- ♦ Disabled Person license plates displaying the International Symbol of Access (ISA)  may be issued to persons with a permanent disability (limit one set of PLATES)
- ♦ Parking placards may be issued to persons with a permanent or temporary disability. There is no fee for a placard issued to a person with a permanent disability, and a \$5 fee (per placard) if issued to a person with a temporary disability
- ♦ Limit one [1] placard for persons with Disabled Person license plates. Limit two [2] placards for persons with no Disabled Person license plates

Check applicable box:	
<input type="checkbox"/> One (1) Parking PLACARD  <input type="checkbox"/> Two (2) Parking PLACARDS	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Person PLATE(S)  <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Person PLATE(S) <b>and</b> one Parking PLACARD

If you apply for a parking placard on behalf of a disabled person, include the disabled person's Texas Driver License number (DL #) or Texas DPS Identification Card number (ID #) on this application. Active duty U.S. military may list an out-of-state Driver License number.

Person with disability or Institution - Type or print only			
Last Name or Institution Name		First Name	Middle Initial
Address		City	State      Zip Code
Day Phone	DL # or ID # of Person w/ Disability	E-mail	

**Statement - State law makes falsifying information on this application a third-degree felony.**

Please include your Texas Driver License number (DL #) or Texas Identification Card number (ID #) on this application. If you apply for a placard **on behalf of a person** with a disability, it is recommended that you include the disabled person's DL or ID # on this application in the field above. The DL or ID # provided on this application will be shown on the placard.

My signature indicates that I am the person with a disability listed above, or:

**making application on behalf of a person with a disability** - Include **your** DL # or ID # only if no DL or ID # is shown above

**the administrator or manager of an institution licensed to transport persons with disabilities** defined under Transportation Code §681.0032 - Driver License # \_\_\_\_\_

Institution, facility or retirement community must list the Facility ID number issued by DADS: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**License Plates** - Complete this section only if you are applying for Disabled Person license plates. For Disabled Person license plates, your annual vehicle registration and other applicable fees must be paid to your County Tax Assessor-Collector.

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ TX License Plate \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Additional set of Disabled Person PLATES for specially equipped vehicle(s) (2 tons or less) listed below:

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ TX License Plate \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Original - Customer

Copy - Tax Assessor-Collector

**THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN\*, PODIATRIST, OR OPTOMETRIST:**

\*Or physician's assistant, which may include an Advanced Practice Nurse as defined in Chapter 301, Occupations Code.

The following conditions must be met by the physician, qualifying PA, podiatrist, or optometrist:

- ♦ Must be licensed in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, or
- ♦ Must practice medicine in a U.S. military installation based in Texas, or
- ♦ Must practice medicine in a hospital or health facility of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has a  permanent, or  temporary disability.  
Name of person with a disability – type or print

**Definitions**

State law Section 681.001(2) defines a disability as a condition in which a person has

- (a) mobility problems that substantially impair the person's ability to ambulate;
- (b) visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; or
- (c) visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less.

State law §681.001(5) defines a mobility problem as one that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate, and the person:

- (a) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest
- (b) cannot walk without the use of or assistance from an assistance device, including a brace, cane, crutch, another person or a prosthetic device
- (c) cannot ambulate without a wheelchair or similar device
- (d) is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one second, measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest
- (e) uses portable oxygen
- (f) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association
- (g) is severely limited in the ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition; or
- (h) has a disorder of the foot that, in the opinion of a person licensed to practice podiatry in this state or in a state adjacent to this state, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk; or
- (i) has another debilitating condition that, in the opinion of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a state adjacent to this state, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk; or
- (l) has another debilitating condition that, in the opinion of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or a state adjacent to this state, or authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Veterans Administration, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk.

- ♦ Blue placard issued for a permanent disability.
- ♦ Red placard issued for a temporary disability.

_____	_____	_____
Date	Printed Name of Physician*, Podiatrist, or Optometrist	Professional License Number
_____	_____	_____
Address	City	State ZIP Code

Signature of Physician\*, Podiatrist, or Optometrist

**Notary**

You must notarize the above signature unless a separate written original prescription is submitted in lieu of the notarized signature. If not notarized, the prescription must include the disabled person's name, signature of the physician\*, podiatrist, or optometrist, and statements as to whether the disability is permanent or temporary.

On this date, \_\_\_\_\_ the above named physician\*, podiatrist, or optometrist \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Name

appeared before me so that I could witness his / her signature.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Printed Name of Notary

I hereby certify that I am a notary in the State of Texas, in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Contact/Help



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles  
HELPING TEXANS GO. HELPING TEXAS GROW.

## Military Packet to Title and Register Your Vehicle

To transfer your vehicle to Texas follow the steps outlined below. Forms and instructions follow:

- Step 1.** Complete a VIN Self-Certification Form VTR-272-B (enclosed), or an Out of State Identification Certificate Form VI-30 (issued by a vehicle safety inspection station).
- Step 2.** Obtain Insurance meeting the state's minimum requirements. You will be required to furnish the declarations page for registration purposes.
- Step 3.** Provide proof of military service or Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) along with a copy of your current government issued identification.
- Step 4.** Complete an Application for Texas Certificate of Title Form 130-U (enclosed).
- Step 5.** If you are applying for a **Texas title and registration** you will also need:
- The current title (Or MCO if a new unregistered vehicle).
  - If importing from another country a USDOT Form HS-7 or a US Customs Form CBP7501.

If you are applying for **registration purposes only** (no title will be issued) you will also need:

- Your current out of state registration, and
  - An Application for Registration Purposes Only Form VTR-272(enclosed).
- Step 6.** Because we all enjoy the Texas roads and scenery, each vehicle registered in Texas pays fees unless you are exempt by law.

### County Fees

Fees will include:

- ✓ New resident fee (if applicable) \$90.00
- ✓ Registration fee for passenger car or truck (6,000 lbs. and less) \$50.75
- ✓ Title application fee \$28.00 or \$33.00
- ✓ Local and county fees \$5 - \$11.50 (varies by county)
- ✓ Automation fee \$1.00
- ✓ DPS electronic insurance verification fee \$1.00

Since counties vary in their fees, be sure to check with your county for specific amounts.

### Taxes

If you are a Texas resident and have not previously paid a Texas sales tax on the vehicle, you will pay either a 6.25% sales tax or the difference of the full sales tax less any taxes previously paid to another state. For used vehicles the value of the vehicle will be determined at the county and is based on the Standard Presumptive Value (SPV) of the vehicle. A SPV calculator is available on our home page. More information can be obtained by calling the State Comptroller's office at (800) 252-1382 or by visiting [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us).

### More Important Information

To allow someone to register and title on your behalf, you can provide a Power of Attorney to Transfer a Motor Vehicle Form VTR-271 (enclosed) in addition to the required paperwork.

### Insurance

Texas law requires the following minimum amounts of coverage for your vehicle:

- ✓ \$30,000 bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident
- ✓ \$60,000 bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, with a \$30,000 limit for one person
- ✓ \$25,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident

"No fault" insurance is not considered valid proof of financial responsibility in Texas. However, proof of financial responsibility from out of state or out of country is acceptable if the insurance company is licensed to do business in Texas and reflects the above minimum amounts.

### Safety Inspections

Every vehicle registered in Texas must pass an annual safety inspection. Some counties also have emissions testing requirements. Please check with your county for requirements.

Texas approved inspection stations conduct vehicle inspections and VIN verifications. Many mechanics, repair facilities, and full-service stations are approved to perform the inspections. Look for the state inspection sign at their place of business. Contact the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) at (512) 424-7293 or visit their website at [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us), for more information. You will need to present valid proof of liability insurance in order to receive your vehicle inspection sticker.

### Importing vehicles

Your vehicle must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Information on the safety standards can be found at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CARS/RULES/IMPORT/](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CARS/RULES/IMPORT/). More information concerning duty or other Customs matters is available from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. <http://www.cbp.gov/>. Being in the military you are not required to complete a Form VTR-68.

You must also have your vehicle inspected by one of the following law enforcement agencies:

- ✓ Municipal Police Auto Theft Unit
- ✓ County Sheriff's Department Auto Theft Unit
- ✓ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- ✓ Department of Public Safety Motor Vehicle Theft Services (DPS)
- ✓ The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Vehicle Theft Investigators

A certified English translation of any document printed in any language other than English must be provided.

### Checklist

#### To title and register your vehicle the following is required:

- \_\_\_ VIN Self-Certification Form VTR-272-B or Form VI-30
- \_\_\_ Proof of Insurance
- \_\_\_ Proof of military service or Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
- \_\_\_ A copy of your current government issued I.D.
- \_\_\_ An Application for Texas Certificate of Title Form 130-U
- \_\_\_ Fees
- \_\_\_ The current title (Or MCO if a new unregistered vehicle)
- \_\_\_ If importing from another country a USDOT Form HS-7 or a US Customs Form CBP7501

#### To register your vehicle the following is required:

- \_\_\_ VIN Self-Certification Form VTR-272-B or Form VI-30
- \_\_\_ Proof of Insurance
- \_\_\_ Proof of military service or Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
- \_\_\_ A copy of your current government issued I.D.
- \_\_\_ An Application for Texas Certificate of Title Form 130-U
- \_\_\_ Fees
- \_\_\_ Out of state registration
- \_\_\_ Application for Registration Purposes Only Form VTR-272

## Vehicle Identification Number Self-Certification

**Texas Residents with vehicles located outside the state of Texas may complete this self certification when applying for a negotiable Texas Certificate of Title in lieu of an Out-of-state Identification Certificate (DPS form VI-30).**

**Submit additional documentation as indicated below, if required.**

**Select applicable box:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Recreational Vehicle owner with vehicle temporarily out-of-state</b><br>♦ Attach valid proof of Texas residency. Acceptable documents include a property tax receipt, utility statement, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Apportioned Vehicle Out-of-State</b><br>♦ Indicate current apportioned account number:<br><br>_____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Military Personnel located Out-of-State</b><br>♦ Attach a copy of current military orders or signed statement from the Provost Marshall.  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Student located Out-of-State</b><br>♦ Attach verification of current student status. Acceptable documents include a tuition receipt, enrollment form, student identification card, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Official serving in the U.S. Congress</b><br>♦ No additional documentation is required.   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Title Only Applicant</b><br>♦ Attach Form VTR-131, <i>Application for Title Only</i> and valid proof of Texas residency, such as a property tax receipt, utility statement, etc.        |

DATE OF INSPECTION	STATE OR JURISDICTION OUTSIDE TEXAS	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)
YEAR MODEL	VEHICLE MAKE	VEHICLE OWNER NAME

**I certify the following:**

- ♦ I have made a physical inspection of the vehicle described above and found the permanent identification number to be as indicated above;
- ♦ At the time this vehicle is being registered in Texas, the vehicle is not located in Texas, and is exempt from the safety inspection provisions of the Texas Certificate of Title Act (Transportation Code §501.030).
- ♦ **I'm aware that a state-approved safety inspection will be required when the vehicle is operated in Texas.** Failure to comply may result in a law enforcement citation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Owner or Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner or Agent

**State law provides that falsifying information on any required document is a third-degree felony.**





# Property Taxes

*Services provided on behalf of  
Galveston County, all county cities, many school districts and several special purpose districts.*

The Galveston Tax Office assesses, collects and disburses property taxes for over half of the governmental entities in the county which means, depending on where you live, statements may be received from multiple governments and even multiple counties. We collect for the Cities of Friendswood and League City which are located in both Harris and Galveston counties. If you live in the Harris County portion of Friendswood, you will receive a statement from us for City of Friendswood taxes, a statement from CCISD for school taxes and from the Harris County Tax Office for Harris County and the governments it serves. Call us if you are concerned or have questions. Those governments we serve are listed on the following page.

## **Basics**

Property taxes in Texas are based on the January 1<sup>st</sup> market value of your property as determined by the county appraisal district (CAD). The CAD handles all ownership, exemption, and value information on your property. We do not make changes to your property tax account without authorization by the CAD. Changes take a long time to work through the process so please monitor your records both on our website and the CAD website (in Galveston County [www.galvestoncad.org](http://www.galvestoncad.org) and for Friendswood and League City residents living in Harris County, Harris CAD at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org)).

Each spring, the CAD issues notices of appraised value. You have until May 31<sup>st</sup> (or 30 days after the date of the notice, whichever is later) to schedule a meeting with an appraiser to protest the CAD value. Please see our booklet, [Effectively Protesting Taxes.pdf](#) at the Important Information link on our home page for additional information on the protest process. Classes are held throughout April and May—watch our website and check your tax statement each year for a listing of class times and locations.

After the appraisal roll is certified, local governments adopt their budgets and tax rates. During the month of October, we produce tax statements and mail them to property owners and mortgage companies. If your property taxes are escrowed by your mortgage company, you will not receive a tax statement from us.

Property taxes are delinquent February 1 meaning payments must be postmarked by January 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered timely.

## **Important Property Tax Deadlines**

October 15 thru 31	Tax Assessor mails tax statements for the year (2013)
November 30	First half of split payment of 2013 taxes is due on or before this date
January 1	Date values are determined by CAD
January 31	Last day to pay taxes including first one-fourth installment if senior, disabled person or disabled veteran
March 31	Last day for second tax installment if senior, disabled person or disabled veteran
April 15	Last day to render business personal property—failure to render will result in a 10% penalty being added to your tax bill.
May 31	Last day for disabled, seniors or disabled veteran to pay third tax installment
June 30	Last day to schedule appointment to protest values with county appraisal district
July 1	Last day to pay second half of split payment for 2013 taxes
July 1	Date that delinquent taxes incur total 12 percent penalty (interest continues to accrue)
July 31	Last day for disabled person, senior or disabled veteran homeowners to pay final 2013 tax installment

## **Information on Forms Included**

- Residence Homestead/Over 65/Disabled Person Application  
Identification and proof of residency is changing September 1—as may this form. After September 1, contact the CAD or go online. This booklet will be updated as soon as new application form is available.
- 100% Disabled Vet - 100% exempt from property taxes in Texas but you **MUST QUALIFY**
- Application for Disabled Vet and Surviving Spouse  
This form is also expected to change September 1. Beginning with the 2013 tax year, disabled vets are now eligible to make four equal installments on their resident homestead taxes upon qualifying.
- Tax Deferral  
Seniors and disabled persons are eligible to defer their property taxes which means they may be paid (once deferral approved) and if not, 8% interest per year is added to the unpaid balance.

## **Payment Options**

You have several options when paying property taxes in Galveston County:

1. Sign-up online ([www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com) and click on large red button) for emailed tax statement and help us help you save money! Then pay via online via electronic check or with credit card.
2. Mail (use envelope included with statement). Postmarks are everything to us! Make certain the date you drop it in the box leaves time for a USPS postmark!
3. Drop in one of the marked boxes outside all but our Crystal Beach office location
4. Come in person—we love meeting our customers!

If you are a qualified senior, disabled person or disabled veteran and making payment on your homestead, you may be able to make four equal installments (by January 31, by March 30, by May 31, and by July 31) without penalty and interest. Installment payments may also be available if the Governor declares a natural disaster such as hurricane or drought.

Split or half pay—for all but Dickinson, Dickinson ISD and Galveston County MUD #12, you may divide your bill by two and, as long as the first half is paid by November 30th, the second half is not due until June 30th—no penalty and interest!

Can't pay—call for a payment agreement. We may be able to save you excessive penalties and interest on your unpaid balance!

## **GCTO Government Collection Customers**

Galveston County Galveston County Road & Flood	City of Kemah City of Jamaica Beach City of La Marque	Emergency Services District #2 MUD District #1 Bacliff MUD No. 4
Dickinson Independent School District Galveston Independent School District High Island Independent School District Hitchcock Independent School District La Marque Independent School District	City of League City City of Santa Fe City of Texas City Village of Tiki Island Crystal Beach (delinquent taxes)	Bayview MUD San Leon MUD Tara Glen MUD GC Fresh Water Dist. No. 6 Galveston Co. MUD No. 12 Navigation District No.1
City of Bayou Vista City of Clear Lake Shores City of Dickinson City of Friendswood City of Galveston City of Hitchcock	Galveston College College of the Mainland  Drainage District No. 1 Drainage District No. 2 Emergency Services District #1	WCID No. 1 WCID No. 12 WCID No. 19  Road District #1 ( <i>delinquent</i> ) State ( <i>delinquent</i> )



# Tax Deferral Affidavit for 65 or Over or Disabled Homeowner

## Property Tax Form 50-126

This affidavit may be used to defer collection of a tax, abate a suit to collect a delinquent tax, or abate a sale to foreclose a tax lien pursuant the provisions of Section 33.06 of the Texas Property Tax Code. Such deferral or abatement only applies to property taxes as provided in Section 33.06. Your property may still be subject to collection or foreclosure actions arising from other debts or liens including, but not limited to, mortgages or home loans. To obtain professional assurance or guidance regarding your individual situation, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

**Public Information Act** - Section 552.147, Tex. Govt. Code, excepts Social Security numbers from disclosure. If this form is requested as public information, your Social Security number will not be released.

Appraisal district name \_\_\_\_\_

Appraisal district address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (area code and number): \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF TEXAS**  
**COUNTY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_,

known to me and who, being by me duly sworn, on oath deposed and said: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_."

I am (check one):  65 years of age or older, or  disabled. I own and occupy as my residence homestead the following property:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby exercise my right under Section 33.06, Texas Property Tax Code, to defer or abate any suit or pending sale\* to collect taxes on this property until such time as it ceases to be my residence homestead."

Signature of Affiant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
DOB

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO** before me this the

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas

### Continuing Tax Deferral by Surviving Spouse:

"I am the surviving spouse, age 55 or older, of the above deceased person whose residence homestead was the home listed above at the time of death. I hereby exercise my right to continue this tax deferral until this property ceases to be my residence homestead."

Signature of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\* To abate a pending sale, the homeowner (or agent) must deliver to the chief appraiser, the tax collector for the taxing unit that requested the order to sale or the attorney representing the taxing unit for collecting delinquent taxes and also to the officer charged with selling the property not later than the fifth day before the sale date.

\*\* Your Social Security number is not subject to public disclosure according to Section 552.147, Tex. Govt. Code.

**If you make a false statement on this application, you could be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor or a state jail felony under Texas Penal Code Section 37.10.**

## APPLICATION FOR RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

To complete this form, see the instructions on back of this form.

YEAR

Appraisal District Name	Phone (Area code and number)
Address	
<i>For appraisal district office use only</i> Legal Description	Parcel Number

<b>Step 1: Owner's name and address (attach sheets if needed)</b>	Owner's Name (person completing application)	
	Current Mailing Address	
	City, State, ZIP Code	Phone (area code and number)
	Driver's License, Personal ID Certificate, or Social Security Number*	Birth Date**
	Percent Ownership in Property	
	Other Owner's Name(s) (if any)	Other Owner's Percent Ownership

<b>Step 2: Describe your property</b>	Street address (if different from above, or legal description if no street address; include property account number, if available)
	Number of acres (not to exceed 20) used for residential occupancy of the structure, if the land and structure have identical ownership. _____ acres
	MOBILE HOMES - Give make, model and identification number: Attach a copy of statement of ownership and location issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs if home is 8' x 40' or larger. Or, attach a verified copy of the purchase contract that shows you are the owner of the mobile home.

<b>Step 3: Check exemptions that apply to you</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION: You qualify for this exemption if (1) you owned this property on January 1; (2) you occupied it as your principal residence on January 1; and (3) you or your spouse have not claimed a residence homestead exemption on any other property.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> AGE 65 OR OLDER EXEMPTION: You qualify for this exemption if you are 65 years of age or older. You cannot claim a disability exemption if you claim this exemption. See the back of this form for more information about tax limitations or qualification dates.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY EXEMPTION: You qualify for this exemption if you are/were under a disability for the purposes of payment of disability benefits under the federal Old Age, Survivor's and Disability Insurance Act OR you met the definition of disabled in that Act. You can't claim an age 65 or older exemption if you claim this exemption. See the back of this form for more information about tax limitations or qualification dates.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> AGE 55 OR OLDER SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO RECEIVED THE AGE 65 OR OLDER EXEMPTION: You qualify for an extension of this exemption if (1) you are 55 years of age or older on the date your spouse died and (2) your deceased spouse was receiving the age 65 or older exemption on this residence homestead or would have applied and qualified for the exemption in the year of the spouse's death. See the back of this form for more information about tax limitations or qualification dates.	
	Deceased Spouse's Name	Date of Death

Check if you will transfer a tax ceiling from your last home. (Attach the tax ceiling certificate if transferring from another county.)

<b>Step 4: Answer if applies</b>	COOPERATIVE HOUSING RESIDENTS - Do you have an exclusive right to occupy this unit because you own stock in a cooperative housing corporation? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------------------	---

<b>Step 5: Check if late</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Application for homestead exemption for prior tax year _____. You must have met all of the qualifications checked above to receive the prior year exemption.
----------------------------------	---

<b>Step 6: Sign and date the application</b>	By signing this application, you state that you are qualified for the exemptions checked above. You state that the facts in this application are true and correct. You also state that you do not claim an exemption on another residence homestead. You must notify the chief appraiser if and when your right to the exemptions end. You swear or affirm that you have read and understand the penalty for filing a false statement.	
	 Authorized signature	Date
	<b>If you make a false statement on this application, you could be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor or a state jail felony under Texas Penal Code Section 37.10.</b>	

\* You are required to give us this information on this form in order to perform tax related functions for this office. Tax Code Section 11.43 authorizes this office to request this information to determine tax compliance. The chief appraiser is required to keep the information confidential and not open to public inspection except to appraisal office employees who appraise property and as authorized by Section 11.48(b), Tax Code.

\*\* Tax Code Section 11.43(m) allows a person who qualifies for a general homestead exemption to receive the 65 or older person exemption without applying when he/she becomes age 65 as shown on the application in the appraisal district's records.

## APPLICATION FOR RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INSTRUCTIONS

**General Residence Homestead Exemptions.** You may only apply for residence homestead exemptions on one property in a tax year. Fill out the other side of this application completely. To qualify for homestead exemptions, you must own and reside in your home on January 1 of the tax year. If you temporarily move away from your home, you still can qualify for an exemption if you don't establish another principal residence and you intend to return in a period of less than two (2) years. Homeowners in military service or in a facility providing services related to health, infirmity or aging may exceed the two-year period. If you have trouble filling out this form, call the appraisal district. A list of taxing units and the exemptions they offer is listed below or attached to this application.

**Age 65 or Older or Disability Exemptions.** You may receive age 65 or older or disability homestead exemptions immediately upon qualification for the exemption(s). If you have not provided your birthdate on this application, you must apply before the first anniversary of your qualification date to receive the exemption(s) in that tax year. For example, if you turn 65 or are disabled on June 1 of the current year, you have until May 31 of the next year to apply for the current tax year's age 65 or older or disability exemption(s). This special provision only applies to age 65 or older or disability exemptions and not to other exemptions for which you may apply.

**Tax Limitations.** The age 65 or older or disability exemption for school taxes includes a school tax limitation or ceiling. Other types of taxing units – county, city or junior college – have the option to grant a tax limitation on homesteads of homeowners who are disabled or 65 years of age or older.

**Surviving Spouse Age 55 or Older.** *Over 65:* You qualify for an extension of this exemption if (1) you are 55 years of age or older on the date your spouse died and (2) your deceased spouse was receiving the age 65 or older exemptions on this residence homestead or would have applied and qualified for the exemption in the year of the spouse's death. You will not receive the school tax limitation for the age 65 or older exemption unless your spouse died on or after December 1, 1987. *Disabled:* You will not qualify for a disability exemption claimed by your deceased spouse. You are not entitled to continue the school tax limitation; however, you will be entitled to continue the local option county, city or junior college limitation.

**Filing Deadlines.** File this application between January 1 and April 30. You may file a late homestead exemption application if you file it no later than one year after the date taxes become delinquent. See the age 65 or older or disability exemptions section above for more on late filing.

**Re-filing.** If the chief appraiser grants the exemptions, you do not need to reapply annually. You must reapply, however, if the chief appraiser requires you to do so by sending you a new application asking you to reapply. You must notify the chief appraiser in writing if and when your right to any exemption ends or your qualifications change. You must reapply if you qualify for additional exemptions based on age or disability in the future.

**Transfer of Tax Limitation or Ceiling.** Please call the appraisal district if you will transfer a tax ceiling to your new home.

**Step 1. Owner's Name and Address.** Enter the following information:

- Name of the owner completing this application.
- This owner's current mailing address and phone number.
- Driver's license number, personal identification number, or Social Security number of this owner (kept confidential).
- Percentage of ownership by this owner.
- This owner's birth date.
- Names of other owners and their percentage of ownership. Attach additional sheets if needed.

**Step 2. Describe the property.** Enter the information requested. Attach the mobile home statement of ownership and location or sales contract. Enter the number of acres used for residential purposes.

**Step 3. Check exemptions that apply to you.** Complete by checking the boxes that apply. If you check the disability exemption, attach documents verifying your disability. If a surviving spouse age 55 or older, enter the information requested. The appraisal district may request documents on date of spouse's death.

**Step 4. Answer if applies.** If the property is cooperative housing, complete Step 4.

**Step 5. Check if late.** If you were eligible for an exemption last year, check the box in Step 5 for late filing for the prior tax year.

**Step 6. Sign and date the application.** You must sign and date this application. Making false statements on your exemption application is a criminal offense.

*(Appraisal District: Attach a page listing those exemptions; or, state: If you would like to know the homestead exemptions offered by your taxing units, call the \_\_\_\_\_ Appraisal District at \_\_\_\_\_.)*



**Cheryl E. Johnson, RTA**  
**Assessor and Collector of Taxes**  
**Galveston County**  
722 Moody Avenue  
Galveston, Texas 77550  
(409) 765-3277  
Cheryl.E.Johnson@co.galveston.tx.us



## **Questions and Answers**

### **About the 100% Disabled Veteran's Homestead Exemption**

**Q. What are the requirements to qualify for this exemption?**

- You own a home and occupy it as your residence homestead
- You are receiving 100% disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability
- You have a disability rating of 100% disabled or of individual unemployability

Complete Homestead Exemption Form, checking the box for 100% Disabled Veterans Exemption, as well as all boxes that apply to you. Attach documentation such as a copy of your award letter, a "VA tax letter," or another document from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs showing 100% disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100% disability or of individual unemployability. The documents you attach must be current documents.

**Q. How much of my home's value will it exempt?**

If you qualify, your home will be totally exempt from property taxes regardless of the home's value. If you co-own the home with someone other than a spouse, your share of the value will be exempted.

**Q. Do I need to apply for the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption? I already have a homestead exemption.**

Yes. This exemption is not given automatically. Complete the Homestead Exemption form and provide all proper paperwork to CAD.

**Q. I just qualified for the disabled veteran's exemption. Why do I need to send you my documentation for this exemption?**

Qualifications for the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption differ from those for the prior disabled veteran's exemption. In particular, you must show that you receive 100% disability compensation for a service-connected disability and have a rating of 100% disability or individual unemployability.

**Q. When is the new homestead exemption effective?**

If you apply and qualify for the current tax year as well as the prior tax year, you will be granted the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption for both years. Effective January 1, 2012, you may receive this exemption for the applicable portion of the year immediately upon qualification. (This applies to 2012 forward; not to prior years).

**Q. My disability rating is actually 50%, but because I am over 65, I receive the maximum disability exemption. Do I qualify for the new homestead exemption?**

No. You must be 100% disabled or have a rating of individual unemployability to qualify for the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption. You must also be receiving 100% disability compensation from the VA. If the VA reduces or changes either of these ratings, it is your responsibility to notify the appraisal district in writing.

- Q. I bought my home after January 1, 2011. Will I get the new exemption for part of 2011?**  
No. The exemption will take effect for the 2012 year if you didn't own your home on January 1, 2011.
- Q. If something happens to me, will the new homestead exemption pass to my spouse or children?**  
Your surviving spouse, married to you and living at the same residence, may qualify to continue this exemption.
- Q. I owe delinquent taxes on my home for years before 2011. Will the new exemption affect those?**  
No. The exemption will apply for 2011 forward. It does not affect prior years.
- Q. I am in a hospital or nursing home. Can I still get the new exemption?**  
Yes, as long as you intend to return to the home when you are able.
- Q. My spouse and I own our home together. How is this homestead exemption calculated?**  
If the home is community property, it is calculated as if you owned 100% of the home. If the home is not community property, the exemption is prorated in proportion to the value of your interest.
- Q. I have a mortgage on the home. Can I still get the new homestead exemption?**  
Yes.
- Q. I have recently turned 65. Should I apply for the over-65 homestead exemption in addition to the new exemption?**  
Yes, for the same reasons given above.
- Q. I meet all of the qualifications for this exemption. I currently apply the \$12,000 regular disabled veteran's exemption to my home. When I get the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption, what happens to the other exemption?**  
This exemption will exempt all of the value of your home. Consequently, the \$12,000 disabled veteran's exemption will have no effect. If you own other taxable property (such as a vacation home or business), you should file a new application with the appraisal district and designate the \$12,000 exemption as applying to the other property.
- Q. Will I have to reapply every year for the 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption?**  
No. Once your exemption is granted, you will not have to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so in writing.
- Q. I already have a disability homestead exemption on my home. What is the difference between that one and this one?**  
The existing disability homestead exemption has different requirements and benefits. For that exemption, you must meet the Social Security Administration's definition of disabled, which is not necessarily the same as that used by the VA or your branch of the military. The benefits are also different. Only school districts are required to provide a disability homestead exemption, though many other taxing entities do. The 100% Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption will apply to all taxing units and will exempt the total value of your home.
- Q. Can I apply this exemption to my main home and get the general homestead exemption on my vacation home?**  
No. Both exemptions apply only to the home that is your principal residence. You can, however, apply the prior disabled veteran's exemption to your vacation home.
- Q. How do I get documentation of my status from the VA?**  
You can contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000. Their website is at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).



# Application for Disabled Veteran's or Survivor's Exemption

Property Tax  
**Form 50-135**

Appraisal District's Name

Phone (area code and number)

Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:** This application is for use in claiming a disabled veteran's or survivor's exemption. A disabled veteran is defined as a veteran of the armed services of the United States who is classified as disabled by the Veteran's Administration or its successor or the branch of the armed services in which the veteran served and whose disability is service connected pursuant to Tax Code §11.22. A qualified individual is entitled to an exemption from taxation of a portion of the assessed value of one property the applicant owns and designates on this form.

**WHERE TO FILE:** File the completed application and all required documents with the appraisal district for the county in which the property is located.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:** This application covers property you owned on January 1 of this year. You must file the completed form between January 1 and April 30 of this year with the county appraisal district in the county in which the property is located. You may file a late exemption application if you file it no later than one year after the delinquency date for the taxes on the property. Be sure to attach any additional documents requested. Return the completed form and any attachments to the address above.

**WHEN NEW APPLICATION REQUIRED:** If the chief appraiser grants the exemption, you do not need to reapply annually, but you must reapply if the chief appraiser requires you to do so.

**DUTY TO NOTIFY:** You must notify the chief appraiser in writing if and when your right to this exemption ends or your disability rating changes.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Pursuant to Tax Code §11.45, after considering this application and all relevant information, the chief appraiser may request additional information from you. You must provide the additional information within 30 days of the request or the application is denied. For good cause shown, the chief appraiser may extend the deadline for furnishing the additional information by written order for a single period not to exceed 15 days.

### STEP 1: State the Year for Which You are Seeking an Exemption

State the year for which you are seeking an exemption

### STEP 2: Provide Name and Mailing Address of Property Owner

Name of Property Owner

Driver's License, Personal I.D. Certificate, or Social Security Number\*

Mailing Address

City, State, ZIP Code

Phone (area code and number)

\* The applicant's driver's license number, personal identification certificate number, or social security account number is required. Pursuant to Tax Code Section 11.48(a), a driver's license number, personal identification certificate number, or social security account number provided in an application for an exemption filed with a chief appraiser is confidential and not open to public inspection. The information may not be disclosed to anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises property, except as authorized by Tax Code Section 11.48(b).

### STEP 3: Describe the Property

Street Address if Different from Above, or Legal Description if No Address

Appraisal District Account Number (if known)

Manufactured Home (give make, model and identification number)

- Check the exemptions that apply to you and answer the questions.
- You may qualify for more than one exemption.

**Disabled Veteran's Exemption**

Check here if this exemption applies to you

You may qualify for this exemption if you are a veteran of the armed services of the United States who is classified as disabled by the Veteran's Administration or your service branch. Your disability must be service related and you must be a Texas resident.

You qualify for this exemption if you are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and your service branch or the Veteran's Administration has officially classified you as disabled. Your disability must be service related. You must be a Texas resident. Please give the information requested below, and attach a letter or other document from the V.A. or service branch giving your most recent disability rating.

Branch of Service	Disability Rating	Age	Serial Number
Are you a Texas resident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Check the box if you: <input type="checkbox"/> have lost the use of one or more limbs ( <i>service related</i> ).			
<input type="checkbox"/> are blind in either or both eyes ( <i>service related</i> ).			

**Surviving Spouse or Child of a Deceased Disabled Veteran**

Check here if this exemption applies to you

You may qualify for this exemption if you are the surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran of the U.S. armed services and the veteran's service branch or the Veteran's Administration had officially classified the veteran as disabled before his/her death. The disability must have been service related. You must be a Texas resident. If you are a surviving spouse, you must not have remarried. If you are a surviving child, you must be under 18 years old and your disabled parent's spouse must not have survived your disabled parent. Please give the information requested below, and attach a letter or other document from the V.A. or service branch giving the veteran's most recent disability rating. Also attach a copy of a birth certificate or marriage license showing your relationship to the veteran.

Veteran's Name			
Branch of Service	Disability Rating	Age at Death	Serial Number
Check the box if the veteran: <input type="checkbox"/> had lost the use of one or more limbs ( <i>service related</i> ).			
<input type="checkbox"/> was blind in either or both eyes ( <i>service related</i> ).			
Are you a Texas resident? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you a surviving spouse? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you are a surviving spouse, have you remarried? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you a surviving child? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you are a surviving child:    are you under 18? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
are you unmarried? .....			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
how many of your disabled parent's children are under 18 and unmarried? .....			_____

# Registering to Vote

*Services provided on behalf of the Texas Secretary of State*

Did you know that Texas was the first State to vote from space! Now that I have your attention, the Tax Assessor/Collector serves as Voter Registrar for the County. GCTO's Voter Registration Department is located on the first floor of the Galveston Branch. Applications are available at each office as well as online at [www.galcotax.com](http://www.galcotax.com) (click on Voter Registration Information tab).

In addition to providing voter registration services, we support all elections held in Galveston County through the provision of poll books and telephone support for voters and election workers. In addition, Volunteer Deputy Registrar training and programs on voter registration, voter participation, and citizenship are available upon request.

## **Who is Eligible to Vote in Texas**

You are eligible to register to vote in Texas, you must complete an application and mail or turn it in to the proper authorities (a county registered volunteer deputy registrar or any employee of the Galveston County Tax Office). The application must be complete (see application items indicated on the following page). FAILURE TO FULLY COMPLETE THE APPLICATION may result in delays that could impact your right to vote!

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. A United States citizen
2. A resident of the County where you submit the application
3. At least 18 years old on Election day
4. Not be a convicted felon (completed sentence, probation and parole) and you have not been declared by a court with probate jurisdiction to be totally or partially mentally incapacitated

\* You may be eligible if you have completed your sentence, probation and parole

## **Voter ID in Texas**

In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 14. This bill created new requirements for voters to show a photo identification (ID) in order to vote. Legal battles may impact the implementation of Texas' Voter ID law but as of this date, it is in full effect.

With the exception of US citizenship certificate (*Item F below*), ID must be current or not have expired more than 60 days before being presented at a polling location. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- A. Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)\*
- B. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- C. Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- D. Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- E. United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- F. United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- G. United States passport

Allow adequate time when voting as election officials must determine whether the name on the ID matches the name on the official list of registered voters. If it does, you may proceed to vote. If the names are found to be "substantially similar" the voter will be permitted to vote after signing an affidavit stating the voter is the same person.

- Go online to DPS at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov) or call 1-512-424-2600 for additional information.

**Texas Voter Registration Application** For Official Use Only

Revised by the Office of the Secretary of State 08/17/2011 E 13

Please complete sections by printing LEGIBLY. If you have any questions about how to fill out this application,

**1 These Questions Must Be Completed Before Proceeding**  
 Check one  
 New Application     Change of Address, Name,     Request for a Replacement Card

Are you a United States Citizen?     Yes     No  
 Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?     Yes     No  
If you checked "No" in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

**2** Last Name (include Suffix if any (Jr, Sr, III))    First Name    Middle Name (if any)    Former Name (if any)

**3** Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box, Rural Rt. or Business Address)    City    TEXAS  
 County    Zip Code

**4** Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. (If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.)    City    State  
 Zip Code

**ONLY IF DIFFERENT**

**5** Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy)    **6** Gender (Optional):  Male     Female    **7** Telephone Number (Optional) Include Area Code ( ) - -

I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety)    give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number  
 XXX-XX-     I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License/Personal Identification Number or Social Security Number.

I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both. Please read all these statements to affirm before signing.

- I am a resident of this county and a U.S. citizen;
- I have not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a felon, I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
- I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally and permanently incapacitated or permanently mentally incompetent to exercise the right to vote.

Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date    / /

Those without proper ID will be required to vote provisionally. **PROPER ID MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE VOTER REGISTRAR WITHIN SIX (6) DAYS** or the provisional ballot will be rejected.

Exceptions to Voter ID Requirement

A permanent exemption will be granted for voters with a disability rating of at least 50% as evidenced by documentation from either the Social Security Administration or Department of Veterans Affairs. It must also be affirmed that the applicant has no valid form of photo identification. Qualifying voters will be provided a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact the Voter Registration Department at 1-409-766-2280 or (toll free) 1-888-976-2280.

Those without a valid form of photo ID as the result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot and **MUST APPEAR AT THE VOTER REGISTRAR'S OFFICE** within six (6) days after election day and affirm to the disaster.

Those objecting to being photographed for religious reasons may vote a provisional ballot and **MUST ALSO APPEAR AT THE VOTER REGISTRAR'S OFFICE** within six (6) calendar days after election day and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection.

Voter ID provisions do NOT apply to voting by mail. There is NO requirement for the voter's ID address to match the voter roll.

**If You Move—Update your Information With Us!**

A change of address form does NOT update your voter records when you move. You will continue to be registered to vote in the last county where you were registered. If you moved from one county to another, notify us in writing by completing a new application or at the DPS office when changing your license.

Some corrections may be made to your voter certificate by noting changes on the back of the certificate and returning it to us and if you move within the county, you may update your information at the SOS website.

**Even More Information**

Your voter certificate will be mailed within 30 days. Find the county precinct designation then check the local newspaper or the county or county clerk websites for complete listings of voting locations.

Call the Voter Registration Department at 1-409-766-2280 or toll free at 1-888-976-2280. You may find additional information online at the Secretary of State website (www.sos.state.tx.us )or call 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) or email elections@sos.state.tx.us.

# Texas Voter Registration Application

For Official Use Only

Prescribed by the Office of the Secretary of State

VR.17.2011.E.13

Please complete sections by printing LEGIBLY. If you have any questions about how to fill out this application, please call your local voter registrar.

## 1 These Questions Must Be Completed Before Proceeding

Check one

New Application

Change of Address, Name,  
or Other Information

Request for a Replacement Card

Are you a United States Citizen?

Yes

No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?

Yes

No

If you checked 'No' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker?

Yes

No

<b>2</b> Last Name Include Suffix if any (Jr, Sr, III)	First Name	Middle Name (If any)	Former Name (if any)
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<b>3</b> Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box, Rural Rt. or Business Address)	City	TEXAS
	County	Zip Code

<b>4</b> Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. (If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.)	City	State
		Zip Code

<b>5</b> Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy) □□/□□/□□□□	<b>6</b> Gender (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<b>7</b> Telephone Number (Optional) Include Area Code (□□□)□□□-□□□□
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<b>8</b> Texas Driver's License No. or Texas Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety) □□□□□□□□	If no Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number XXX-XX-□□□□
<input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License/Personal Identification Number or Social Security Number.	

**9** I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both. Please read all three statements to affirm before signing.

- I am a resident of this county and a U.S. citizen;
- I have not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a felon, I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
- I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

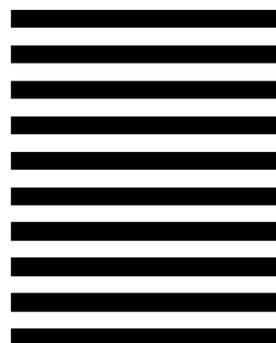
**X**

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 4511 AUSTIN, TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**GALVESTON COUNTY  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
PO BOX 1169  
GALVESTON TX 77553-9979**



**Qualifications**

- You must register to vote in the county in which you reside.
- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you must be 18 years of age by Election Day.
- You must not be finally convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or you must have received a pardon.
- You must not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

**Filling out the Application**

- Review the application carefully, fill it out, sign and date it and mail it to the voter registrar in your county or drop it by the Voter Registrar's office.

- All voters who register to vote in Texas must provide a Texas driver's license number or personal identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you don't have such a number, simply provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you don't have a social security number, you need to state that fact.
- Your voter registration will become effective 30 days after it is received or on your 18th birthday, whichever is later. Your registration must be effective on or before an election day in order to vote in that election.
- If you move to another county, you must re-register in the county of your new residence.

Please visit the Texas Secretary of State website, [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us), and for additional election information visit [www.votexas.org](http://www.votexas.org).

**Este formulario está disponible en español. Favor de llamar a su registrador de votantes local para conseguir una versión en español.**

