

SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The property tax exemption for senior citizens, enacted in its original form by constitutional amendment in 1967, provides tax relief for homeowners who qualify on the basis of age or disability and disposable income. In 2007 38 counties reported that the program provided \$168.4 million in relief for 114,862 participants.

To be eligible for tax relief in 2007, a homeowner must be 61 in the year the claim is filed or retired by reason of physical disability. Tax relief is provided in the following increments:

- full exemption from excess property taxes, along with a freeze on assessed valuation on January 1 of the initial application year, for households with a combined disposable income of \$35,000 or less;
- exemption from all regular property taxes on the greater of \$50,000 or 35 percent of the value of the residence, not to exceed \$70,000 if income is between \$25,001 and \$30,000; or
- exemption from all regular property taxes on the greater of \$60,000 or 60 percent of the value of the residence if income is \$25,000 or less.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, 1983-2007

| Year Levies Due | Approved Applicants | Total Relief | Average Relief |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2007*..... | 114,862 | \$168,383,834 | \$1,466 |
| 2006..... | 115,801 | 161,494,134 | 1,395 |
| 2005..... | 109,926 | 150,015,797 | 1,365 |
| 2004..... | 112,587 | 120,099,341 | 1,067 |
| 2003..... | 112,671 | 121,315,779 | 1,077 |
| 2002..... | 116,197 | 112,313,715 | 967 |
| 2001..... | 122,928 | 112,498,359 | 915 |
| 2000..... | 126,914 | 117,387,875 | 925 |
| 1999..... | 128,686 | 113,706,695 | 884 |
| 1998..... | 131,924 | 80,614,685 | 611 |
| 1997..... | 135,742 | 81,077,359 | 597 |
| 1996..... | 136,036 | 79,043,697 | 581 |
| 1995..... | 130,650 | 73,191,817 | 560 |
| 1994..... | 126,641 | 67,368,802 | 532 |
| 1993..... | 120,415 | 61,854,086 | 514 |
| 1992..... | 105,024 | 52,184,342 | 496 |
| 1991..... | 91,505 | 39,164,183 | 428 |
| 1990..... | 93,392 | 36,390,308 | 390 |
| 1989..... | 90,773 | 35,646,066 | 392 |
| 1988..... | 87,004 | 26,997,527 | 310 |
| 1987..... | 88,428 | 27,142,744 | 307 |
| 1986..... | 89,235 | 24,402,314 | 273 |
| 1985..... | 87,216 | 23,877,847 | 274 |
| 1984..... | 90,031 | 20,695,350 | 230 |
| 1983..... | 92,168 | 16,924,835 | 184 |

* 38 counties reported senior citizen data