

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 2011, the program provided \$175.5 million in relief for 114,800 participants.

To be eligible for tax relief in 2011, 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, 1985-2011

Year Levies Due	Approved Applicants	Total Relief	Average Relief
2011.....	114,800	\$175,512,451	\$1,529
2010.....	114,359	173,844,936	1,520
2009.....	113,239	176,066,722	1,555
2008.....	113,948	180,895,710	1,588
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