



## COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

From the desk of Commissioner Mike Stieben

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I would like to personally thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and each member of this committee and the leadership of the Kansas legislature for allowing this important hearing to take place on ways to reduce property taxes and limit valuation spikes under the current property tax valuation and appraisal system.

This has been such an important issue in Leavenworth County that we have formed a taskforce in my district to identify ways to reduce property taxes both on the local level and on the state level. The citizen taskforce has met together five times and the group worked to identify ways for property taxes to be reduced both on the local level and also on the state level. The group voted to support SCR1611 the 4% cap on property taxes which was approved in the Kansas Senate last year and is awaiting a vote in the Kansas House of Representatives. This is just one of several steps that can be taken to begin addressing the tax issues and specifically the property tax issue burden being placed on many Kansans. Sadly, Kansas is becoming a high tax state in our region and it is important that these tax issues be addressed. I am hopeful legislators will approve SCR1611 and advance the constitutional amendment to the voters so they can weigh in on support for the 4%.

We have shared with the public the existing programs for individuals to help reduce the property tax burden they are outlined below:

### The Homestead refund:

The Homestead refund is a rebate program for the property taxes paid by homeowners prior to January 1 2023. The refund is based on a portion of the property tax paid on a Kansas resident's homestead. If you own your home, the refund is a percentage of your general property tax. The maximum refund is \$700. This refund program is not available to renters.

### Who qualifies?

To qualify you must be a Kansas resident, living in Kansas the entire year. Your total household income must be \$40,500 or less. You must also meet one of the following requirements:

- \* Born before January 1, 1969, OR
- \* You must have been totally disabled or blind during the entire year, regardless of your age, OR
- \* You must have had a dependent child living with you all of last year who was born before January 1, 2023, and was under the age of 18 the entire year.

### Safe Senior- Kansas property tax relief for low-income seniors

The Safe Senior Refund is a property tax refund program administered under the provisions of the Kansas Homestead Act (Property Tax Refund). Safe Senior is also referred to as, "Kansas Property Tax Relief for Low Income Seniors". The refund is up to 75% of the 2023 general property tax paid or to be paid on the 2023 real estate tax statement for the residence in which the claimant lived in 2023.

Who qualifies?

To qualify a claimant must meet all of the following requirements for the Safe Senior Refund:

- \* Owned a home and resided in Kansas all of 2023.
- \* Aged 65 years or older for all of 2023 (born before January 1, 1959) and
- \* House hold income \$23,700 or less in 2023
- \* Property taxes cannot be delinquent

**Senior and Disabled Veterans Property Tax Refund (SVR Homestead)**

Who qualifies?

- \* Total household income must be \$53,600 or LESS, AND
- \* You must be over the age of 65 or older all of 2023, OR
- \* You were a disabled veteran 50% or more military disability, disabled in the line of duty and honorable discharge, OR
- \* You were a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran receiving the SVR and who was NOT remarried OR
- \* You were a surviving spouse of person 65 or older receiving the SVR and who was NOT remarried

Please note that these programs are on the books and in statute available right now. If you need any help with understanding the process please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. Once again, we continue to hope the legislature will act to bring true reform to our property tax and valuation system in Kansas. If you have any questions please email me a [mstieben@leavenworthcounty.gov](mailto:mstieben@leavenworthcounty.gov) or call 913-775-2772.

Cordially yours,

Mike Stieben  
Leavenworth County Commissioner

2023 TO 2024	2022 TO 2023	2021 TO 2022	2020 TO 2021	2019 TO 2020	2018 TO 2019	2017 TO 2018	2016 TO 2017	2015 TO 2016	2014 TO 2015	2013 TO 2014	2012 TO 2013
VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE
CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES	CHANGES
4.55%	14.85%	15.2%	8.4%	5.5%	8.3%	7.0%	4.5%	3.2%	3.5%	1.2%	-0.3%