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## **Property Tax Relief**

Ohio Governor, Ted Strickland recently signed a provision for property tax relief for eligible homeowners. Ohioans may qualify under the expanded Homestead Exemption. Senior citizens who own homes or individuals who are permanently and totally disabled homeowners can exempt \$25,000 of his or her home value for property taxes.

In order to qualify, homeowners must be either:

- At least 65 years old or turning 65 this year; or
- Certified permanently and totally disabled as of January 1, 2007; or
- The surviving spouse of a qualified homeowner who was at least 59 years old when their spouse died.

Homeowners who were not eligible for the relief previously must now fill out an application to receive it. County auditors must receive applications by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 so the exemption can be applied to the 2008 tax bills. Homeowners who currently receive the exemption do not need to re-apply.

To apply, take the following information to your local county auditor's office:

- Your 2006 income tax returns along with your 1099 SSA Form (2006 year-end statement from Social Security Administration).
- If disabled, please provide award letter.
- The application will be completed at the auditor's office.