



THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

A property owner may be exempt from a portion of property taxes if the owner is eligible for the Homestead Exemption. A "domicile" is one's permanent, owned residence. A person can have only one domicile. Every homeowner in Orleans Parish is able to claim an exemption from property taxes for the first \$75,000 of value of their "domicile" or the home they occupy as their primary residence.

The State Constitution guarantees a Homestead Exemption for each eligible Louisiana homeowner

The Homestead Exemption was set by voters in 1980 at \$75,000 and is covered by Article VII, Section 20 of the Louisiana Constitution. The Homestead Exemption is permanent for as long as the individual owns and resides at that property in Orleans Parish.

For example, the first \$75,000 of a \$100,000 home is exempt from all property tax millage, except for 10.47 mills dedicated by voters to police and fire services in Orleans Parish. A home valued at \$50,000 with a valid Homestead Exemption would pay \$52.37 a year in property tax for the

police and fire millage everyone pays. If the \$50,000 home had no valid Homestead Exemption and was located on the East Bank of Orleans Parish, the total property tax bill would be \$737.90.

A tax calculator is available at www.nolaassessor.com.

One home, one Homestead Exemption

Only one Homestead Exemption can be granted per home that is owned and permanently occupied as a domicile by a resident in Louisiana. A Homestead Exemption cannot be applied to a property that an individual owns but does not live in day-to-day. For example, someone cannot live in Atlanta and receive a Homestead Exemption for a home they own in Orleans Parish.

Your Homestead Exemption application or notification is mailed to you once a year

Property owners are provided with a Homestead Exemption application by mail from the Assessor's Office, usually every February. This must be signed and returned in order for the exemption to be applied.

How to file for a Homestead Exemption

To claim a Homestead Exemption, a person must appear in person at the Assessor's Office and present the following:

1. Proof of ownership (act of sale or warranty deed);
2. A valid Louisiana driver's license or government photo ID;
3. A recent unpaid utility bill for that property; and
4. A signed Homestead Exemption form received from the Orleans Assessor's Office.

