



**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Recommendation Number: 20230308-7i**  
**MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON SENIOR**  
**HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION**

**Strategic Direction:** Affordability and Government That Works

**Date:** March 8, 2023

**Subject:** FY2024 Budget Recommendations

**Motioned By:** Varteressian   **Seconded By:** Van Sickle

**Recommendation:**

The Commission on Aging recommends the City Manager continue to designate at least \$20,000 for door to door and other community-based education and outreach on the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption.

**Rationale:**

In 2018 the Commission on Aging adopted Recommendation Number: 20181114- 4B: Recommendation on Senior Property Tax Assistance, calling for education and outreach to older adults on the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption. Community comments identified high property taxes as a barrier to affordability for older adults living in gentrifying parts of Austin. Further, the Commission heard from older adults that they were unaware of the exemptions they were entitled to and/or needed assistance to apply.

The Council passed Resolution 20190822-070 endorsing the Commission on Aging's resolution. The The council receives periodic updates on implementation of the resolution.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=354893>

A relatively new state law makes older adults who have inherited their homes with other relatives eligible for a 100% exemption by filing an updated application with the appraisal district.

See: [https://law.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/08/2020-12-ECDC-heirproperty\\_2pg.pdf](https://law.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/08/2020-12-ECDC-heirproperty_2pg.pdf)

The FY2023 budget includes \$20,000 for this initiative in response to the Commission on Aging's request. The Commission on Aging recommended in-person, community-based interaction with households identified as potential beneficiaries of the Senior Homestead Tax Exemption. This could include community events and, if appropriate, going door-to-door, to assist older adults in completing the required paperwork to receive these exemptions and potentially save thousands of dollars on their property taxes.

Outreach efforts in 2022 successfully enrolled over 100 individuals in the program. Ensuring older adults receive all the tax exemptions they are due is a low-cost way to improve affordability and reduce displacement.

**Date of Approval:** March 8, 2023

**Record of the vote:**

**For:** Chair Temperley, Vice-Chair Bondi, Angel, Bordie, Briesemeister, De Maria Nicola, Garcia-Pittman, Lugo, Van Sickle, Van De Putte, Varteressian.

**Against:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Bauman, Kareithi, Lopez-Guerrero

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Temperley".

**Attest:**

Amy Temperley, Chair