



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230322-019
AFFORDABILITY PRIORITY – HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION**

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: Joint Endorsement of the Commission on Aging’s FY23-24 Budget
Recommendation 20230308-7i: Homestead Tax Exemption
(JIC Affordability Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Amanda Afifi Seconded By: Commissioner Jennifer Powell

COMMISSION ON AGING RECOMMENDATION 20230308-7i:

JOINTLY ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET

The Joint Inclusion Committee collectively endorses the Commission on Aging’s recommendation that 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

The FY2023 budget includes \$20,000 for this initiative in response to the Joint Inclusion Committee’s endorsement of the Commission on Aging’s request and recommendation for 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang
Commission for Women: Rebecca Austen
Commission on Aging: Amy Temperley
Early Childhood Council: Raul Alvarez
Hispanic/Latino Quality-of Life-Resource Advisory Commission: Amanda Afifi
LGBTQ+ Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Charles Curry
Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities: Jennifer Powell

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commission on Immigrant Affairs: Juan Vences-Benitez
Human Rights Commission: Idonna Griffith

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza