By Kenneth Welch - Founder Open Government in Blanco County Texas Oct. 6, 2023.

PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED

Take a close look at your Property Tax statement. Each of us have unique situations so we will each have a different outcome.

My situation is just as I suspected.

Blanco ISD tax is way down due to the action of the Legislature under S.B. 2. They increased the mandatory homestead exemption for the school districts and are returning excess sales tax to help reduce the school portion of our property tax bill. This **reduced my Blanco ISD tax by 56%**. It is great news but I would prefer a reduction in sales tax and gas tax so I could just keep the money. I fear excess sales tax revenue will not continue and ISD taxes will again rise.

Emergency Services District #2 held their tax rate constant and due to increased appraised value my **tax bill went up 11%**. They are continuing to pay the mortgage on the new facility in Blanco and trying to keep pace with new equipment and staffing. The tax rate is capped by sate law unless they get voter approval.

Groundwater District lowered the tax rate and my tax bill dropped 3.4%

Blanco County finally raised the homestead exemption to the maximum allowed by the state after many years of holding it at the minimum. Then they turned around and **raised the tax rate**. Coupled with increased property values they successfully **raised my tax bill 2.4%**. This was a **bait and switch** effort so they can keep borrowing and spending on their favorite building construction projects. Had they left the rate alone, I believe all of us would have benefited with a lower tax bill.

I don't live in the City but would be interested to hear what you experienced with Blanco, Johnson City, Johnson City ISD and ESD #1.

We each have a different situation. **Take a close look at your 2023 Tax Statement**. Review your exemptions and be sure you are taking advantage of all that are available to you. You can contact the Blanco County Appraisal District to review you statement. All taxing entities are different and our elected officials make the taxing decisions.

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