

General Tips for Property Protests

Protest Deadline

- The protest deadline is May 15th, or 30 days from the Notice Date, whichever is later. Check your notice to see your deadline. However, notices are not generated on all properties, so if your property was not noticed, your deadline is May 15th.

When Requesting an Adjustment to Your Property Account

- **Submit a Protest Form:** Adjustments cannot be made unless a property owner (or their representative) submits a Protest Form. The Protest form is available on your County website. Most offices have the options of filing by mail, in-person, or online, so be sure to check your counties website and apply in a way that best fits your needs.
 - <https://traviscad.org/protests>
 - <https://www.wcad.org/>
 - <https://bellcad.org/>
 - <https://lampasascad.com/>
 - <https://coryellcad.org/>
 - <http://www.burnet-cad.org/>
- **Good Contact Info:** The protest form needs to include good daytime contact info; telephone and/or email. Email is the preferred format to exchange information.
- **Submit Materials with Protest:** Property owners should provide any materials that will help the District arrive at a correct value for their property. Providing materials may contribute to an early resolution of the protest. See examples below:
 - Detailed written descriptions of factors devaluing property
 - Photos of problems or defects
 - Private Fee Appraisal
 - Closing Statement for a recent purchase
- **Hearing Availability:** Property owners who have a planned vacation, or will otherwise be out of pocket, should make note of that unavailability. Hearing dates and times are limited, so some dates may be unavailable.

After a Protest is Submitted

- 1) **Settlement May Be Offered:** If the appraisers decide an adjustment is needed based on the protest materials provided, they will send the owner a settlement form with the new adjusted value. The form must be signed and returned to the correct office to be valid.
 - **Settlement Form Must Be Returned:** Again, a property owner who receives a settlement offer, must sign and return the form in order for the adjustment to have effect. The value will revert to the original noticed value, and a protest hearing will be scheduled, if the signed form is not returned.
- 2) **Hearings May/Will Be Scheduled:** If the appraisers determine that the evidence shows the district's value is correct and the property value should not be adjusted, then the account will be scheduled for a hearing. Prior to the hearing, the property owner will be mailed a notice of hearing date.

Bonus Tip:

- Have you applied for any exemptions on your home? You may be eligible for a property tax exemption that could significantly reduce your tax burden. It's important to ensure that you have applied for any exemptions you may qualify for, as this could also save you a substantial amount of money. Some common exemptions include:
 - Homestead

- Age 65 or Older or Disabled Persons
- Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses of Disabled Veterans
- Surviving Spouses of First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty
- Be sure that you have applied for the exemptions you qualify for!
 - To determine which exemptions you may be eligible for and to apply for them, you can contact your local county appraisal district or tax assessor-collector's office. Don't miss out on potential savings - take the time to explore your eligibility for property tax exemptions ASAP.