

ASSESSOR / RECORDER

MARC C. TONNESEN
Assessor/Recorder



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSESSOR TONNESEN WARNS OF POTENTIALLY MISLEADING PROPERTY TAX REASSESSMENT SOLICITATION BY A PRIVATE COMPANY

Solano County, February 9, 2009

Assessor-Recorder Marc Tonnesen wants to alert homeowners to a potentially misleading property tax reassessment solicitation. According to Tonnesen, Solano County homeowners may have received a form letter that at first glance looks like official government correspondence. Members of the community have contacted his office to alert Tonnesen to this potentially misleading solicitation for property tax reassessment reductions for a fee. Tonnesen wants the public to be assured that this solicitation is in no way associated with his office which does not charge a fee to review your property for assessment relief.

According to Tonnesen, state law provides for a temporary reduction of the assessed value of real property if its market value as of January 1st is less than its assessed value. This is commonly referred to as a "Proposition 8" reduction. Once a property is placed on Proposition 8 status, the Assessor reviews the value annually for increases or decreases and adjusts accordingly. Although there is no limit on how much the value of a property on Proposition 8 status can be increased or reduced in any given year, the assessed value can never exceed the Proposition 13 factored base year value. A reduction can be initiated by either the property owner or the Assessor.

Last year Assessor-Recorder Tonnesen's office reduced the assessments on 30,000 properties countywide. For the 2009 assessment year, his office plans to review the assessed values of more than 30,000 additional properties which may be eligible for Proposition 8 relief. "My office is taking a proactive approach" Tonnesen states, "I was elected to make sure that property owners' tax assessments are fair. Home values have declined significantly and I intend to make sure property tax relief through reduced assessments is granted to Solano County homeowners who are entitled to such reductions".

Tonnesen wants to note that Tax Bills must be paid by the due date printed on the bill regardless of any pending review or adjustment by the his office.

You may obtain an Assessment Review Request form by calling the Assessor's office at (707) 784-6210 or visiting us at 675 Texas Street, Suite 2700, Fairfield, CA 94533. You may address mail to this address as well. If you have access to a computer you may obtain a form from the Assessor/Recorder website at www.co.solano.ca.us.

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