



Karnes County Appraisal District

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2016 Annual Report

Introduction

The Karnes County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the state. The Constitution of the State of Texas, the Texas Property Tax Code, and the Rules of the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division govern the operations of the appraisal district.

Mission

The mission of Karnes County Appraisal District is to discover, list and appraise property as accurately, ethically and impartially as possible in order to estimate the market value of all property within the boundaries of the district for ad valorem tax purposes. The District must make sure that each taxpayer is given the same consideration, information and assistance as the next. This will be done by administering the laws under the property tax system and operating under the standards of:

- The Property Tax Assistance Division of the Texas State Comptroller's Office (PTAD)
- The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
- The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP)

Governance

The Appraisal District is governed by a **Board of Directors** whose primary responsibilities are to:

- Appointing the Chief Appraiser
- Contracting with other appraisal offices, taxing units or private firms to perform appraisal functions;
- Adopting annual budgets for the operation of the Appraisal District
- Determining a method of financing the annual budget based on cost allocation among taxing units;
- Purchasing or leasing real property, as well as constructing improvements to establish the appraisal district office
- Ensuring preparation of annual audits by certified public accountants;
- Selecting a financial institution to deposit funds through bid solicitations;
- Entering contracts for appraisal functions, all for all expenditures, comply with the competitive bidding requirements established by law;
- Being a necessary party to lawsuits brought by property owners concerning appraisals;
- Approving the appointment of the Agricultural Advisory Board
- Appointing the members of the Appraisal Review Board and increasing the size of said board's membership when necessary;
- Develop a biennial written reappraisal plan for the District's appraisal activities
- Administering the District office in any other manner required by law.

To be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, a person must have resided within the boundaries of the county for at least two years prior to their appointment. Their terms are not staggered. There are no legal limits to the number of terms a board member can serve.

The **Chief Appraiser** is the chief administrator of the Appraisal District and is appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chief Appraiser must be licensed (or actively working toward licensing) as a Registered Professional Appraiser (RPA) through the Texas Department of Licensing.

Members of the **Appraisal Review Board** are appointed by the Board of Directors. ARB members serve two year staggered terms. They are limited by law to serving three consecutive 2 year terms. They must be certified by the Texas Comptroller. Their responsibility is to settle value disputes between the taxpayer and the Chief Appraiser. Their decisions regarding value are binding to the Chief Appraiser for the tax years protested.

The **Ag Advisory Board** is appointed by the Board of Directors at the recommendation of the Chief Appraiser to aide him/her in determining typical practices and standards for agricultural activities in the district. They serve at the will of the Board of Directors.

Taxing Jurisdictions

The Karnes County Appraisal District is responsible for appraising all properties for each of the taxing jurisdictions that have territory located within Karnes County. Following are those tax jurisdictions with territory located in the district:

- Karnes County
- Karnes County Farm Road
- Karnes County Emergency Service District
- Karnes County Hospital District
- Karnes City ISD
- Falls City ISD
- Kenedy ISD
- Runge ISD
- City of Karnes City
- City of Falls City
- City of Kenedy
- City of Runge
- Ecleto Creek Watershed District
- Escondido Watershed Authority
- Hondo Watershed District
- Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District
- San Antonio River Authority
- Nixon-Smilely ISD
- Nordhem ISD
- Pawnee ISD
- Pettus ISD

Legislative Changes

For legislative changes to the Property Tax Code during 2016 that affected the Appraisal District's operations for 2016, please visit the Texas State Comptroller website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/> for all the legislative changes and updates. Laws passed during the 2016 legislative session will have an effect on the 2017 appraisal records.

Property Types Appraised

The District is comprised of some 72,178 parcels. The following represents a summary of property types appraised by the District for 2016:

PTAD Classification	Property Type	Parcel Count	Market Value
A	Single Family Homes	3,148	184,750,184
B	Multi Family Homes	38	9,734,202
C	Vacant Land	1,602	9,019,910
D1	Qualified Open Space "Ag" Land	5,432	29,404,679
D2	Non-Qualified "Ag" Land	790	20,339,806
E	Farm/Ranch Improvements	3,388	211,367,486
F1	Commercial Real Property	797	165,370,145
F2	Industrial Real Property	25	384,468,780
G	Oil/Gas/Minerals	49,030	3,248,205,480
J	Utilities	842	515,743,040
L1	Commercial Personal Property	727	66,629,959
L2	Industrial Personal Property	605	526,223,080
M1	Mobile Homes	688	18,680,397
S	Dealer's Special Inventory	6	1,505,287
X	Exempt Property	7,247	67,768,239

Ratio Study Analysis

Once every two years the Texas State Comptroller conducts a study to determine the uniformity of and the median level of appraisals by the District within each major category of property. To view the CAD Summary Worksheet and School District Summary Reports from the 2016 study, please visit <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/pvs/2015p/> and click on Karnes.

Property Discovery

The District aggressively seeks to discover all newly constructed or added property each year through examination of:

- City/County building permits
- Filed Material/Mechanic's Liens
- Mobile home installation reports
- Septic tank permits
- Electric connection reports
- Advertisements
- Railroad Commission Reports (oil/gas)
- Field discovery
- Public "word of mouth"

Utilizing these discovery tools, a total market value of \$15,043,487 was added to the appraisal roll for 2016.

Exemption Data

Property owners may qualify for a variety of exemptions as provided by the Texas Constitution. Some of the most commonly occurring exemptions are described below. Other less commonly occurring exemptions are available and described in the Texas Property Tax Code, Chapter 11.

Residential Homestead

The following chart represents the total exemption amounts available to homeowners who qualify for this exemption on homesites with a maximum of 20 acres:

Jurisdiction	General	Over 65	Disability	100% Disabled Veteran
Karnes County	\$5,000 or 20% (the greater)	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Karnes County Road & Bridge	\$5,000 or 20% (the greater)	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Karnes County ESD	\$5,000 or 20% (the greater)			100%
Karnes City ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Kenedy ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Falls City ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Runge ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
Evergreen UWCD		\$25,000	\$25,000	100%
San Antonio River Authority	\$5,000 or ½% (the greater)	\$5,000	\$5,000	100%
*Pawnee ISD	\$25,000 +20% (\$5,00 Min)	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
*Pettus ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
*Nixon-Smiley ISD	20% (\$25,000 Min)	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
*Nordheim ISD	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
*Overlap Area	Not Collected	By Karnes	County	

For school tax purposes, the over 65, disability, and 100% disabled veteran residential homestead exemptions create a tax ceiling prohibiting increased taxes on the homestead on *existing buildings*. (Any new areas added to the homesite will cause the ceiling to be readjusted and set in the subsequent tax year.)

Although Texas law allows it, none of the other taxing jurisdictions have adopted tax ceilings for over 65 or disabled homeowners.

All homeowners who qualify for the residential homestead exemption are subject to the placement of a *homestead cap* on their qualifying property which prohibits the increase of taxable value on the homestead property to ten percent per year. However, the market value may still be reflective of the local real estate market.

Disabled Veterans

In addition to the residential homestead exemption allowable to disabled veterans with a 100% service connected disability (as described above), disabled veterans are allowed a general exemption on any property they own based upon the percentage rating as determined by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Current exemption amounts, as based upon these ratings, are:

Percentage Disability	Exemption Amount
10-29%	5,000
30-49%	7,500
50-69%	10,000
70-100%	12,000

Other Exemptions

Other commonly occurring exemptions are:

- Cemetery Exemptions
- Religious Organizations
- Primarily Charitable Organizations
- Veteran's Organizations

Other less frequently occurring exemptions are allowable and described in Chapter 11, Property Tax Code.

Appeal Information

State law required the district to mail Notices of Appraised Value to property owners where:

- New property has been included for the first time on the appraisal roll
- There has been an ownership change
- There has been a change in taxable value of \$500 or more
- The property filed a rendition statement of the property
- The property has been annexed or de-annexed to a taxing jurisdiction

In compliance with these laws, the District prepared and delivered required notices for:

- 10833 real estate parcels
- 30470 mineral/utility/industrial parcels

From those notices, 5,692 parcels were protested with the following characteristics:

Description	Parcel Count
Value is over market value	5,366
Value is unequal compared with other properties	3,536
Property should not be taxed	17
Failure to send required notice	17
Other	328
Exemption was denied, modified, or cancelled	2
Change of land use	2
Land use was denied, modified or cancelled	2
Owner's name is incorrect	123
Property should not be taxed in CAD or tax unit	9

The final results of these protests were:

Description	Parcel Count
Protest withdrawn	163
Protest settled	1,859
Case dismissed for failure (of taxpayer) to appear at hearing	3,630
ARB ordered no change to the appraisal record	1,892
ARB ordered a change to the appraisal record	10

Certified Valued

The Chief Appraiser certified market and taxable values to each taxing jurisdiction on July 25, 2016, summarized as follows:

Jurisdiction	Parcel Count	Market Value	Taxable Value
Karnes County	72,178	6,296,193,585	5,282,042,529
Karnes County Rd & Bridge	72,177	6,296,193,585	5,283,705,458
City of Karnes City	11,214	149,217,613	135,187,767
City of Kenedy	4,201	241,154,480	208,955,062
City of Runge	1,270	32,014,344	26,207,595
City of Falls City	485	31,812,932	25,698,142
Falls City ISD	10,841	570,640,952	400,290,794
Kenedy ISD	16,489	1,294,201,848	942,956,950
Karnes City ISD	38,686	3,614,502,315	3,196,462,956
Runge ISD	8,853	440,244,692	317,300,233
Karnes County ESD #1	72,177	6,296,193,585	5,295,552,377
Karnes County Hospital Dist	72,177	6,296,193,585	5,344,098,215
Evergreen UWCD	72,177	6,296,193,585	5,315,151,231
San Antonio River Authority	72,177	6,296,193,585	5,324,422,279
Escondido Watershed Dist	16,489	1,146,091,896	980,467,474
Ecleto Watershed District	9,400	1,147,259,040	979,629,803
Hondo Watershed	921	129,688,493	64,974,603
Pawnee ISD	3,072	167,193,306	139,682,363
Pettus ISD	1,008	198,034,992	70,013,271
Nixon-Smiley CISD	123	5,070,146	885,953
Nordheim ISD	59	6,409,469	1,514,683

Tax Rates

Using the taxable values as certified by the Chief Appraiser(s) and following the requirements of the Truth in Taxation Laws, the taxing jurisdictions adopted the following tax rates (information obtained from tax assessor's office):

Jurisdiction	2016 Tax Rate	2016 Tax Rate Breakdown
Karnes County	0.249226	0.231800 M&O 0.017426 I&S
Karnes County Rd & Bridge	0.050774	
Karnes County ESD #1	0.018368	
Karnes County Hospital Dis	0.130811	
Falls City ISD	1.571000	1.040000 M&O 0.531000 I&S
Kenedy ISD	1.185500	1.040000 M&O 0.145500 I&S
Runge ISD	1.500000	1.040000 M&S 0.460000 I&S
City of Karnes City	0.768800	0.312600 M&O 0.456200 I&S
City of Falls City	0.345712	
City of Kenedy	0.279800	0.174100 M&O 0.105700 I&S
City of Runge	0.321443	
Escondido Watershed	0.090276	
Ecleto Watershed	0.073603	
Hondo Watershed	0.126130	
Evergreen UWCD	0.007800	
San Antonio River Authority	0.017290	
Karnes City ISD	1.166900	1.040000 M&O 0.126900 I&S
Pawnee ISD	1.18260	.9173 M&O .26530 I&S
Pettus ISD	1.2384	
Nixon-Smiley ISD	1.17	
Nordheim ISD	1.22472	