

Your assessor's office is committed to keeping up with a fast-changing world to better serve property owners:

- **CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE COURTHOUSE** allowing easy access to a staff of knowledgeable, friendly professionals and modern personalized services.
- **STATE-OF-THE-ART WEBSITE** to provide free comprehensive information for property research including building amenities, sketches, parcel maps, ownership and valuation.
- **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION** can now be filed at many loan closing locations, making it easier and saving time for title companies and taxpayers.
- **UPDATED AERIAL IMAGERY** tracking changes in structures and improvements which is shared with 911 and first responders.
- **ENHANCED FIELD PROCEDURES** designed to notify home owners when field deputies are working in their area, thus promoting safety for both the homeowner and the deputy.
- **CONTINUOUS TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES** engaging the latest appraisal processes ensures we can offer the most advanced services possible.
- **QUALIFIED APPRAISAL STAFF** trained in education and certification programs promoting high standards of accuracy and fairness.

Remember that all property tax dollars stay in Ouachita Parish. Your vote determines where the money goes. Correct property assessment provides our local governments, law enforcement, schools, and other entities with needed funds to maintain, repair, and improve our infrastructure, protect us from crime, and educate our children.

OPAssessor.com

Stephanie Smith, **ASSESSOR**

Morgan Herring, **CHIEF DEPUTY**

OFFICES OPEN:

Monday-Friday from 8:00am - 4:30pm
(318) 327-1300

We thank you for your service and dedication to our country. It is our mission to serve the citizens of Ouachita Parish with fairness, efficiency, and responsiveness. If you have any questions, or if we may assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to give us a call or visit OPAssessor.com.



**OUACHITA
PARISH
ASSESSOR**

**VETERAN
HOMEOWNERS
SPECIAL DISABILITY
EXEMPTION**



WE ARE
Experienced
Courteous
Dedicated

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Based on your disability rating as determined by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, you may be entitled to a Special Exemption. If you have:

- ✓ **Between 50% - 69% disability**, you are entitled to an additional \$25,000 Special Exemption above \$75,000 Homestead Exemption.
- ✓ **Between 70% and 99% disability**, you are entitled to an additional \$45,000 Special Exemption above \$75,000 Homestead Exemption.
- ✓ **A 100% disability or unemployment**, you may be fully exempt from ad valorem taxes.

IMPORTANT

A Special Exemption does not include parcel fees or other fees or fines. It also does not include municipal millages if your property is located inside the city limits of a municipality. This is still taxable, and all are still the homeowner's responsibility, even those with a 100% disability.

For veterans with the correct disability rating already filed with our office, no action is needed at this time. But in August, please remember to check your assessment at OPAssessor.com to review your exemption status.

However, this is not an "automatic" exemption. For veterans with a disability rating of 50% or higher from the VA who have not filed with our office, please contact us to apply. Applicants will need to provide a current certification form from the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs showing home address and a disability rating.

This Special Exemption does not have an income requirement like a Freeze. Therefore, veterans who may not be eligible for a Veterans Freeze, may still be eligible for this Special Exemption in addition to the Homestead Exemption.

A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran may also be eligible for this Special Exemption, even if the disabled veteran did not apply before his or her death. The spouse may only apply on the veteran's last domicile. Homes purchased after the death of the veteran are not eligible.

SURVIVING SPOUSE OF MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDER SPECIAL EXEMPTION

Spouses of a member of the military who died while in the line of duty in the US armed forces or the spouse of a First Responder who died while on duty may be eligible for a Special Assessment.

A surviving spouse may apply only on the home that was the veteran's last domicile and only if the surviving spouse has not remarried.

VETERANS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Veterans may qualify for a **Veterans Freeze** to lock in or "freeze" the current assessed value of their home for as long as the veteran owns and occupies the home. The homeowners cannot exceed the maximum combined adjusted gross income allowed, and the value of new/additional improvements cannot exceed 25% of the home's value. The current adjusted gross income level is \$100,000 and will increase based on the Consumer Price Index beginning in 2026.

REMEMBER

This special assessment does not freeze taxes.

Taxes may vary annually and are determined by the millages that voters and taxing bodies have approved.

A veteran may qualify for a special assessment if the veteran:

- ✓ **Has a combined adjusted gross income on latest Federal tax returns that meets eligibility requirements.**
- ✓ **Has a service-connected disability rating of 50% or more.**
- ✓ **Is a surviving spouse of someone killed in action, missing in action or a prisoner of war for a period exceeding 90 days.**

The Veterans Freeze extends to surviving spouses who are at least 55 years of age and meet all other criteria.

To apply, applicants will need the previous year's Federal income tax returns and a current certification form from the La Dept of Veterans Affairs showing home address and disability rating.

