

Tennessee Can Afford Senior Tax Relief: Assessor Calls for Property Tax Reimbursement for Long-Term Senior Homeowners

State's \$1.5–\$2.5 Billion Annual Surplus Makes Full Property Tax Relief Fiscally Responsible

Murfreesboro, TN : With Tennessee consistently ending each fiscal year with a recurring surplus of \$1.5 to \$2.5 billion, advocates are calling on state legislators to prioritize property tax relief for senior citizens who have called Tennessee home for 20 years or more. The proposed **Tennessee Golden Homeowners Tax Relief Program** would provide full reimbursement of property taxes for qualifying seniors on their primary residences.

"The money is there. The question is priority," said Rob Mitchell, Rutherford County Property Assessor. "If Tennessee can afford to give \$1 billion annually in tax cuts to big business, we can certainly afford to protect the seniors who built our communities and have been paying into the system for decades."

IV. Appropriation and Transfer Requirements

FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Appropriations	\$ (555,183,200)
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V. Total Available Funds at June 30, 2025 (III + IV)	\$ 2,141,987,750
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Long-term Tennessee homeowners are being taxed out of homes they've owned for generations as property values and tax assessments continue to rise. Many seniors on fixed incomes face an impossible choice between paying property taxes and affording other necessities.

The proposed program would provide full property tax reimbursement for Tennessee residents age 65 and older who have lived in the state for at least 20 years, applicable only to their primary residence.

The cost would represent approximately 3% of the state budget and would be funded through Tennessee's substantial annual surplus.

Keeps Seniors in Their Homes: Eliminates the threat of tax foreclosure for Tennessee's most vulnerable long-term residents.

Strengthens Local Economies: Allows seniors to spend their limited income on local goods, services, and healthcare rather than property taxes.

Fiscally Responsible: Costs roughly \$750 million to \$900 million annually — easily covered by the state's recurring surplus without raising taxes or cutting other services.

Rewards Loyalty: Honors Tennesseans who have contributed to their communities for decades. "This is responsible stewardship, not reckless spending," added Mitchell. "Tennessee has the resources. What we need now is the political will to protect the people who made Tennessee what it is today."

Citizens who support the Tennessee Golden Homeowners Tax Relief Program are encouraged to sign the petition at: <https://change.org/p/grant-the-tennessee-golden-homeowners-tax-relief-program>