



Important facts to know when

# **BUYING A HOM**

In Citrus Coun

Be fully informed about Florida's property tax laws so you can enjoy your dream home as a resident of Citrus County for many years to come!

## ESTIMATE.



### HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION COULD SAVE YOU \$400 - \$600 EACH YEAR

Do not rely on current taxes as an estimate following a change in ownership as these represent the seller's taxes. The Assessed Value of your home resets to full Market Value in the year after your purchase, which could result in much higher taxes. Visit us online and use our Tax Estimator to estimate what your taxes will be under new ownership after crossing the first January 1 under your ownership. This tool will also account for any portability benefit from a previous homestead within three tax years.

# APPLY



### DON'T DELAY, THE FILING DEADLINE IS MARCH 1!

You may qualify for substantial tax savings with the homestead exemption if you are a permanent Florida resident. This exemption is not automatically applied to your new home, even when moving from a prior homestead. As the new owner, you must apply for the exemption with the Property Appraiser's office. Also note, the property will benefit from the limitations of the Save Our Homes Cap in the second year of the new owner's homestead exemption. This limits increases in assessed value to a maximum of 3% per year (additional provisions may apply). Failing to apply for homestead exemption can be costly. If you moved into your home after January 1, or if you forgot to file in a prior year, file now for savings that will benefit you next year.



#### Making Wedding Plans?

If you both currently own homesteaded properties, a homestead exemption must be removed from one of the properties no later than January 1 after you are married.



Florida law provides several property tax exemptions under certain situations for disabled Veterans and Florida First Responders, deployed active duty military and their surviving spouses. The criteria for these exemptions are specific and must be applied for. Go online, visit us or call for more information and applications.



If you receive a letter or questionnaire from the Property Appraiser, it is important and may require action on your part to prevent you from losing your homestead or potentially receiving a lien with steep state-imposed penalties and interest charges.



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