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## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

In July 2013, the law governing the Homestead Exemption was changed to an income based program for homeowners who were 65 years of age or totally disabled (if less than 65) and owned and occupied their home as of January 1st. The new law exempts the first \$25,000 of value, thus reducing the amount of taxes on your property.

- 1). You must be 65 years of age (or turn 65) in the year you are applying for or be permanently or totally disabled regardless of age, as certified by the Social Security Administration.
- 2). The income is based on your Ohio Adjusted Gross Income. The total amount of income for tax year 2014 must be under \$31,000. This income based program applies to homeowners that are turning 65 in 2015 as well as those persons qualifying under the disability exemption.
- 3). You must own your home and/or manufactured home as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year for which you are applying and you must be occupying it as your primary place of residence at the time of application. In other words, it must be your voting and mailing address.
- 4).\*\*\* In Lake County, **PROOF OF AGE IS A REQUIREMENT**. A **photocopy** of one of the following is acceptable; a driver's license (current or expired), State of Ohio ID card, birth certificate or passport (current or expired) and **must be included with your application**. The application must be filed by Monday, June 1, 2015.
- 5).\*\*\* If your home is currently in a Trust or Life Estate, please submit **A COPY OF THE PAGE OF THE TRUST (OR PAGES) THAT SHOW THE TYPE OF TRUST WITH YOUR APPLICATION**. Per Ohio Law, certain Irrevocable Trusts do not allow you to qualify for the exemptions.
- 6). If you would have qualified for Homestead in 2014 and did not apply, please check the "Late application for prior year" box on the application as well as current application box. If you are filing a Late application, then the total amount of income must be under \$30,500.

For more information or questions, please contact us at (440) 350-2536.