
NEWS



RICK AUERBACH



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY PROVIDES HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION
PRIVATE COMPANY HELP NOT NEEDED

Los Angeles County Assessor Rick Auerbach today reminded homeowners that they do not need to pay private companies offering to provide assistance in obtaining exemption benefits. This service is made available free of charge by the Office of Assessor.

"We are again receiving inquiries about companies that are mailing official-looking documents to property owners who have not taken advantage of the \$7,000 Homeowners' Exemption provided by the County," Auerbach said.

"This exemption allows a reduction in assessed valuation of owner-occupied single-family homes prior to the calculation of value for tax purposes," he added.

"Firms making offers to file exemption documents for a nominal processing fee, often \$25, usually include small-print disclaimers that they are not a government agency," Auerbach cautioned, "and homeowners are sometimes confused by the language and appearance of what is just a sales pitch."

These mailings sometimes include other offers to help find property information and comparable sales data for small fees. These services are available free of charge on the Assessor's website at www.lacountyassessor.com or at any regional assessor office.

Assessor's homeowner exemption forms, which involve only the principal place of residence, are automatically mailed to new buyers and may also be obtained by calling either (213) 974-3211 or toll-free 1-888-807-2111. They can be filed at any time.

Public service staff is available with explanations about these forms and how to submit them by mail.