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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Filing Period for Important Property Tax Applications Now Open

Mahoning County, OH - Auditor Ralph Meacham is announcing that his office is now accepting the following applications:

- ✓ *Owner Occupancy Tax Reduction*
- ✓ *Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizen, Disabled Persons and Surviving Spouses*
- ✓ *Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses*

The *Owner Occupancy Tax Reduction* is available to homeowners who own and occupy their home as their principal place of residence.

The *Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons* allows eligible senior citizen and disabled homeowners to shield $25,000 worth of the fair market value of their home from property taxes. For example, the owner of a home appraised at $100,000 who is eligible for the Homestead Exemption would be taxed as if the home were worth $75,000.

The Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons is open to any homeowner who:

- ➢ Owns and occupies the home as their domicile as of January 1 in the year of application; AND
- ➢ Is at least 65 years old or will reach age 65 during the current tax year; OR
- ➢ Is certified totally and permanently disabled as of January 1 of the current tax year regardless of age; OR
- ➢ Is the surviving spouse of a qualified homeowner who was receiving the Homestead Exemption at the time of death, and who was at least 59 years old on the date of their spouses death; AND
- ➢ Meets the income threshold. Income is the Ohio Adjusted Gross Income (OAGI) of the applicant and applicant's spouse; OAGI can be found on line 3 of the Ohio income tax return. For property tax year 2015, the income threshold on 2014 Ohio income tax return is $31,000. For property tax year 2016, the income threshold on 2015 Ohio income tax return is $31,500.

The *Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans* shields up to $50,000 worth of the fair market value of their home and is open to homeowners who own and occupy the home as their domicile as of January 1 of the year of application and who are determined to have a 100% service-connected disability with no income threshold.

All of the exemptions and reductions are based on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land and homeowners are entitled to them on only one home in any state.

Applications and frequently asked questions regarding the qualifications for the Homestead Exemptions and Owner Occupancy Reduction can be found on the Auditor's website. "I strongly encourage homeowners to check their property tax bills to see if they are receiving these reductions, and if not, call my office or visit the Auditor's website for further information on qualifying for these beneficial reductions," Meacham stated. Applications are accepted through the first Monday in June each year, which is June 6, 2016. If a taxpayer applies for any of these reductions, they will receive written notice of their approval or denial by Monday, October 3rd of this year.

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