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Applications Now Available for Property Tax Relief *More Homeowners Now Eligible Under Homestead Exemption*

COLUMBUS –A provision in the new two-year budget gives one in every four Ohio homeowners a much-needed property tax break. Governor Strickland’s push for this relief takes pressure off of every older and disabled homeowner living in our state, reports State Rep. Tim DeGeeter (D-15th District).

An estimated 775,000 Ohioans – more than a half-million more people than before – now qualify under the newly-expanded Homestead Exemption. The first \$25,000 of a home’s value will be exempt from taxes. That means an estimated average savings of \$400 a year.

“This is sound and sensible tax relief,” Rep. DeGeeter said. “Not only will it lessen the burden on seniors in our state, but Governor Strickland found a creative way to make sure the relief is paid for by selling bonds backed by Ohio’s tobacco settlement.”

To qualify, homeowners must be:

- At least 65 years old; or
- Certified permanently disabled as of January 2007; or
- The surviving spouse of a qualified homeowner who was at least 59 at the time of their partner’s death.

DeGeeter urges qualified homeowners to apply before the October 1st deadline. Those homeowners must fill out an application obtained from the County Auditor’s Office, although those already receiving the exemption need not re-apply.

For those who have not already applied or were not previously eligible, you may contact Frank Russo, Cuyahoga County Auditor at (216) 443-7010 or access the website at <http://auditor.cuyahogacounty.us/> for applications.

Rep. DeGeeter, however, is also mailing the application and enclosed self-addressed envelope to the Cuyahoga County Auditors Office to assist the more than 8,400 seniors in the 15th District. This mailing is being done without use of taxpayer dollars. “As your state representative, I thought it was important to get this information out to all seniors who qualify for this tax relief. It is being done as a courtesy to those seniors,” said Rep. DeGeeter.

For further information or should you have any questions please contact Rep. DeGeeter’s District Office at (440) 884-2400 or his Columbus Office at (614) 466-3485.