



BROWN COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Anne Grunert
County Assessor

Diane Dunn
Deputy Assessor

Diane Rolloff
Senior Technician

Cindy Marti
Technician

Angie Gauert
Senior Appraiser

Jim Heil
Appraiser

Sheena Hillesheim
Appraiser

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Dear Members of the House Property Tax Division,

For as many years as I can remember the homestead application deadline has been Dec 15th. Except for two programs – The Veterans Homestead used to be July 1st and recently change to Dec. 15th The Blind and Disabled Homestead benefit has an application deadline of October 1st.

The Brown County Assessor's office does not support House File 195 due to the following reasons:

- It still does not ensure the application deadline will be met.
- We currently have close to 400 Actively Farming applications. Each application typically has a number of parcels involved. Even with sending the applications out in June/July, we receive a large number of applications the last week up to the date of December 15th.
- With the current deadline of December 15th we are still processing the last minute applications until @ January 15th.
- Pushing the application deadline back, pushes our timeline back. It would have the county processing applications almost to the end of January, shortening our timeline for processing the new Assessment year documents.
- We more than likely would have to mail our Valuation Notices separately. This would cost the county an additional \$5,000 in mailing expenses.
- Local Boards would get pushed back into the end of April/beginning of May. Many of these boards are made up of farmers who are typically in the fields at that time. We work extremely hard to ensure we are not interrupting the planting season when holding our boards.

Brown County does agree with the fact that aligning all of the applications to a certain due date would make it easier for the property owners.

We do not agree with the date of Dec 31st to own, occupy, and make application.

Our suggestion is to align all application due dates as follows:

Own and occupy by December 1st and make application by the 15th. This ensures the county would have time to process all of the last minute applications and still complete the next year's assessment in a timely manner without incurring any additional expenses.

There are many smaller counties that do not have the staff to process these applications and complete other work as needed within the prescribed deadlines.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Anne Grunert, SAMA

Diane Dunn, CMAS