Appealing Your Tax Assessment

Dear Catoctin residents,

There are two important issues I want to bring to your attention.

The first issue is rising tax assessments. We knew taxes would be a concern this year, when the Board set the tax rate higher than the equalized rate. Now Catoctin residents have seen the updated tax assessments for their homes, and judging by the emails I’ve gotten this week, many of you aren’t too happy about the results. You do have the option to appeal your assessment. I’ve included more information about that appeal process below.

The second issue is redistricting. The Board approved what I think will be our final redistricting map, and it will come to our public hearing on May 11. This is a golden opportunity to tell the Board what you think about this redistricting proposal. I’ve included information below on how you can provide your comments, both before and at the public hearing.
How to Appeal an Assessment

Tax assessments throughout Loudoun have gone up with breathtaking speed. Robert Wertz, Loudoun’s Commissioner of the Revenue, says the typical attached townhome’s value went up by 12.7%, and the typical single family home’s value went up by 16.1%. As he put it, Loudoun has seen “unprecedented increases in sales prices of residential real estate[].”

Many of you have already seen your home’s latest assessed value. If you haven’t yet, or if you’d like to go check its assessments from previous years, you can do that online at [loudoun.gov/parceldatabase](http://loudoun.gov/parceldatabase).

If you think your home’s assessment is mistakenly high, you can file an appeal with the [Loudoun County Board of Equalization (BOE)](http://boe.loudoun.gov). The BOE will begin accepting appeals on April 18. **The deadline for filing your appeal is June 1.**

Acceptable grounds for this type of appeal are:

- **Market Value:** Comparison of recent sales of properties that are similar to yours.
- **Equity:** Comparison of properties near yours that have similar features, such as living area, age, acreage, and amenities.
- **Incorrect Property Data:** Inaccurate information was used to generate your assessment.

The BOE’s has [detailed filing instructions for residential property owners](http://boe.loudoun.gov), [frequently asked questions](http://boe.loudoun.gov), and other useful guidance on their website. When their filing window opens on April 18, they will also provide a link to their online appeal application system.
Redistricting Heads to May 11 Public Hearing

As I mentioned in my recent newsletter, the Board is sending the LT-Revised 1 Plan to our May 11 public hearing. This is your last real chance to speak up and tell the Board what you think about this redistricting proposal, including your thoughts about its inclusion of just one Western Loudoun supervisor instead of our current two.

To speak at the public hearing, you can sign up in advance by calling 703-777-0200 before noon on May 11. If you miss that deadline to sign up in advance,
fear not – starting 30 minutes before the public hearing, you can still sign up to speak on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can also send your comments directly to the Board, either by emailing the whole Board at bos@loudoun.gov or by using Loudoun’s online comment form for the redistricting process.

Sincerely,

**Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner**

*Catoctin District Supervisor*
*Loudoun County Board of Supervisors*
*Loudoun County, Virginia*

Supervisor Caleb Kershner | caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov