



KEN BURKE

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Property Values Can Be Challenged Online

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PINELLAS COUNTY, FL- For the first time in Pinellas County, property owners who disagree with their property value assessments can file petitions to go before the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) online via the Clerk's website, www.mypinellasclerk.org, beginning on Monday, August 31, according to Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Using the new Axia web software, the Clerk's office has added the online petitioning feature as well as enabling petitioners to submit their supporting documents online, according to Burke.

Other methods of petitioning to go before the VAB are still available. The forms can be accessed online, then mailed or filed in person at the Clerk's Board Records department located on the fifth floor of the Clearwater Courthouse, 315 Court St., Clearwater or may be dropped off at one of these Clerk's branch offices: the St. Petersburg Branch at 545 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg; the Tyrone Branch at 1800 66th St. N., St. Petersburg or the North County Branch at 29582 U.S. 19, Clearwater.

The Property Appraiser's office mailed the Truth In Millage (TRIM) notices on Monday, August 24, 2009. Property owners have until Friday, September 18, 2009 to file a petition challenging their property tax notice.

The TRIM notice includes homeowner's property taxes, property assessments and proposed millage rates set by the various taxing entities. The market value shown on the 2009 TRIM Notice is based on market condition and ownership status of the property as of January 1, 2009, and is determined by analyzing sales that took place in 2008, according to the office of Pam Dubov, Property Appraiser.

Property owners who disagree with their assessments can meet with the property appraiser's office to discuss their notices. If they are still dissatisfied, they may file a formal challenge with the VAB through the Clerk's office.

The Value Adjustment Board serves as the decision-making authority between the property owners and the property appraiser when there is a disagreement over exemptions, valuations and classifications. Once a petition is filed, a quasi-judicial hearing is scheduled with a special magistrate.

For more information, visit the Value Adjustment Board page at www.mypinellasclerk.org or call Board Records at 727-464-3458.

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