

## **Cherokee County Senior Homestead Exemption (2024)**

On May 21st, 2024, Cherokee County residents handedly voted in support of expanding the county's senior school property tax exemption. The amendment expands the homestead exemptions from Cherokee County School District ad valorem taxes to cover the full value of the homestead for senior or disabled residents with annual incomes not exceeding \$16,000, while establishing residency requirements and provisions for grandfathering certain residents. The new exemption will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Eligibility and Grandfathering:

- Cherokee County seniors 62 and older (no income restrictions), and disabled residents with annual incomes less than \$16,000 annually, who have resided in the county for at least 5 years.
- Must be 62 years of age or older on or before January 1st of the effective tax year.
- Must own and reside on the property on or before January 1st of the effective tax year.
- Residency for the requirement does not require homeownership for the entirety of the 5-years.
- Expansion would also apply to property owners who qualify for and receive the senior school property tax exemption in 2024.

The expansion aims to provide financial relief to senior citizens and disabled residents, addressing economic disparities and enhancing their ability to maintain homeownership. In 2023, Cherokee County properties saw an average increase of 15.01% on their assessments over the previous year, according to the county. While the exemption is estimated to return at least \$14 million less per year in property tax revenue for the Cherokee County School District, the School Board supported legislators in moving the exemption forward.

To receive any exemptions, you must apply in person at the Tax Assessors Office by April 1st of the effective tax year. For more information, visit the [Cherokee County Tax Assessor's website](#).