

# Peaster Independent School District

PO Box 129  
Peaster, TX 76485

[www.peaster.net](http://www.peaster.net)

817-341-5000  
Fax: 817-868-6560

Dear Peaster ISD Neighbors,

We hope this message finds you well. As a resident of our community, we want to ensure you have accurate, timely information about an upcoming election.

Peaster ISD has called a Tax Rate Election (Proposition A), which will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

- This election seeks voter approval to access three additional "Golden Pennies" on the district's Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate.
- If approved by voters, this action is estimated to generate nearly \$280,000 in local funding and approximately \$600,000 in state funding, resulting in about \$880,000 in additional funding annually for Peaster ISD.
- These funds would remain in Peaster ISD and would be used to support the following district priorities: safety and security, teacher compensation and managing class sizes.

In 2024-2025, the Board of Trustees strategically paid off debt early, saving taxpayers approximately \$860,000 in interest and allowing the district to lower the Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate by just over \$0.03. This year, the Board adopted a balanced budget, and is asking voters to consider adding \$0.03 to the Maintenance and Operational (M&O) side of the budget. M&O pays for all district expenditures except bond debt.

We have received questions from senior citizens about how this election may affect them. The State of Texas has specific laws in place to protect individuals who are 65 years of age or older.

## **How does this affect residents 65 and older?**

For residents who are 65 or older, own their home, and already receive an "Over 65 Homestead Exemption," there is a tax ceiling on the amount of school taxes they pay. This means:

- School taxes cannot exceed this ceiling as long as the homeowner owns and lives in the home.
- The ceiling is generally set at the school district taxes due in the year the homeowner qualifies for the exemption and can decline as the state decreases the district's tax rate through a process called "tax rate compression"
- Taxes can only exceed the current ceiling if improvements are made to the property, such as adding square footage, a pool or an outbuilding.

For more information about the Peaster ISD Tax Rate Election (Proposition A) 2025 and a list of voting sites, please visit: [www.peaster.net/vatre-2025](http://www.peaster.net/vatre-2025)

Sincerely,  
Kendra Pittman  
Peaster ISD Superintendent of Schools

### **1. What is the “Over 65” or “Senior Citizen Exemption?”**

Taxpayers who are 65 years old or older or disabled qualify for a school district exemption, sometimes referred to as the “senior citizen exemption.” This exemption applies to the homestead of the taxpayer receiving the exemption. Once a property owner receives an over-65/disability homestead exemption, a tax ceiling/freeze is set on their total school taxes.

### **2. What is a tax ceiling?**

It is a limit on the amount of school taxes you must pay on your residence. If you qualify your home for a 65 and over or disabled person homestead exemption, the school taxes on that home cannot exceed the tax ceiling as long as you own and live in that home. The tax ceiling is generally the amount you pay in the year that you qualified for the exemption and can decline as the state decreases school district tax rates through tax rate compression. Taxes can go lower than the ceiling, but not higher.

### **3. What if my home value goes up, will my school taxes increase?**

The appraised value may change, but the school taxes on your homestead cannot increase. Normal repairs, maintenance, and market changes do not affect your tax ceiling. The Tax Rate Election will not increase the school tax bill above your tax ceiling for homesteads already receiving the 65 and older tax exemption, unless you make significant improvements.

### **4. What is considered a significant improvement to your home?**

Examples include adding square footage, building a swimming pool, or adding a garage or game room. Routine maintenance and repairs do not affect the exemption.

### **5. Does the 65 and older tax exemption go into effect automatically?**

No. Homeowners must apply through the county appraisal district. Applications can be found on your county appraisal district’s website or by calling their office directly.

### **6. When do I need to apply for the 65 and older tax exemption?**

If you qualify for the age 65 and over exemption, you may apply up to one year after your 65th birthday or up to two years after taxes are due, whichever is later. If approved, the exemption applies for the full year in which you turn 65 and continues for future years as long as you own a qualifying homestead.

### **7. Do I have to apply for the 65 and older tax exemption each year?**

No. Once approved, the exemption remains in place for that homestead. If you move to a new home, you must reapply for the exemption and the percentage of tax savings of the tax ceiling will transfer to the new home.

**We cordially invite you to join the Superintendent for an informational session about the Peaster ISD Tax Rate Election.**

- **Tuesday, October 15, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.**  
Coffee & Donuts at the Peaster Rock Gym
- **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.**  
Lunch & Learn at the Peaster Rock Gym

**To RSVP, please contact Amy Reader at [areader@peaster.net](mailto:areader@peaster.net) or call 817-341-5000.**

### **Key Dates to Remember:**

- **Voter Registration Deadline:** October 6, 2025
- **Early Voting:** October 20–31, 2025
- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025