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Letters to the Editor  
3800 Howard Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

**Property tax relief long overdue**

Dear Editor,

Adjusting the homestead exemption for inflation makes good sense. In 1982, the exemption rose to its current level of \$75,000 which was the value of the average home then. Today, twenty-five years later, the average home in Jefferson Parish is selling for more than \$180,000 or 240% of the current level of the exemption. Inflation has eroded the worth of the exemption and an adjustment in it is necessary.

Regrettably, most small business owners do not receive the many property tax breaks that are reserved for special interests and large industry. But any small business person who owns and occupies a home receives the homestead exemption, the one exemption available to the most people. Without the exemption small business owners would most likely receive no meaningful property tax break at all.

Our senior citizens are also entitled to a tax break and removing the income test to freeze their assessments and shelter them from tax increases caused by inflation is long overdue and the right thing to do.

You may not know this but the legislature has the authority to grant tax relief to renters for the property taxes they pay through their rents. Your efforts would better serve this community as it recovers from the storms and government mismanagement of the recovery if you supported an adjustment in the homestead exemption, needed tax relief for our senior citizens, and legislation which gives tax relief to renters. This is a solid road to recovery.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence E. Chehardy, CLA  
Assessor  
Jefferson Parish