

NOT TRUE: TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S PROMISED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

By: Bill Peacock & Don Huffines

The Texas Senate and the Texas House have both claimed that Texans will receive somewhere from \$16.5 billion to \$17 billion in property tax relief over the next two years.

However, neither claim is true. The true numbers are \$11.2 billion and \$11.7 billion, respectively.

The problem with the Senate's claim of \$16.5 billion of property tax relief is that it is double counting. In 2019 and 2021, the Legislature provided limited property tax relief that is in place today. However, the Texas Senate wants to take credit for those changes AGAIN. The same is true for the Texas House. Its \$17 billion relief plan also includes money to pay for relief promised in previous sessions.

88th Session Property Tax Plan

SENATE BILLS 3, 4, AND 5

\$16.5 BILLION IN TAX RELIEF

Senate Bill 3 – A Unanimous Senate for Homeowner Tax Relief

- 31 Senators are Joint Authors of a \$70k ISD Homestead Exemption for 5.72 Million Texas Homesteads
- SB 3 increases the ISD Homestead Exemption from \$40k to \$70k – a 75% Increase!
- SB 3 also implements the voter-approved Homestead Exemption increase from \$25k to \$40k for all over-65/disabled homesteads, from Propositions 1 and 2 in May 2022.

SB 3 TRIPLES the Over-65 Exemption Too!

- SB 3 provides a total of \$100k in total Homestead Exemptions to 2.07 Million over-65 or disabled homeowners!
- SB 3 triples the over-65 or disabled Homestead Exemption to \$30k from \$10k!

\$30k Over-65 or disabled Homestead Exemption
+ \$70k ISD Homestead Exemption
\$100k Total Exemption

In both cases, the Senate and the House are trying to make us believe that the \$5 billion for property tax relief they passed in 2019 is somehow "new" property tax relief in 2023. Not surprisingly, the media is falling for this duplicitousness:

POLITICS // TEXAS POLITICS

Texas lawmakers unveil initial plan for \$15 billion in property tax relief

Source: [Houston Chronicle](#)

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Texas House's property tax bill calls for \$17 billion in cuts, tighter appraisal cap

Source: [The Texas Tribune](#)

These false claims are all the more startling considering that the Texas policymakers have a historically high \$32 billion budget surplus at their disposal, not to mention an estimated \$30 billion of new revenue coming in over the next two years. Members intentionally mislead voters so they can spend all of the taxpayer dollars rather than return it to its rightful owner.