



Pierce County Board of Commissioners

Public Hearing #3

705 College Avenue, 2nd Floor, Blackshear, GA 31516

February 27, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance

Troy Mattox, District 1
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Commissioner not in attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Graham Raley, District 2

Staff in attendance

Raphel Maddox, County Manager
Donna Golding, County Clerk
Adam Craft, County Attorney

1. Call to order-Commissioner Randy Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Commissioner Troy Mattox led the invocation.
Commissioner Randy Dixon led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Discussion of HB 581 Intent to Opt Out of Homestead Exemption-Commissioner Randy Dixon started the meeting by making sure everyone at the hearing had signed in and had picked up packets with information about HB 581.
3. Public Comment-Commissioner Randy Dixon opened the floor to anyone who had questions and concerns about the HB 581 state homestead exemption or the local homestead exemption that is currently in place for Pierce County homeowners. There were many example handouts for the ones who attended the hearing.

County Manager Raphel Maddox presented the two choices for homestead exemptions. HB 581 is a statewide floating exemption that limits the annual increase in property tax assessments on homesteaded properties. This applies to homeowners and would limit the increases in the taxable value of homes to no more than the inflation rate that occurred over the prior year.

Current local floating exemption-If you are a homeowner and claimed homestead exemption for the previous year you may be eligible to freeze the taxable value of your primary residence and up to 5 acres of land on which the primary residence is located at the prior year value. This exemption is for County and School tax purposes and does not freeze any taxable values for State or City tax purposes. If improvements are made to the residence the frozen value will be increased by the value of the improvements.

The County Manager also stated that when people go to vote and see the word exemption on the voting ballot, they automatically think they are saving money without reading the entire passage.

County Chief Appraiser, Mr. Bill Rozier, stated that the current local home-stead exemption is the best of the two exemptions. Mr. Rozier encouraged everyone to go to the office to find out if they have a home-stead exemption and see if they qualify for any other exemption.

4. Adjournment-Commissioner Randy Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Not in Attendance

Neal Bennett
Commission Chairman

Troy Mattox
Commissioner, District 1

Not In Attendance

Graham Raley
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Donna Golding
County Clerk