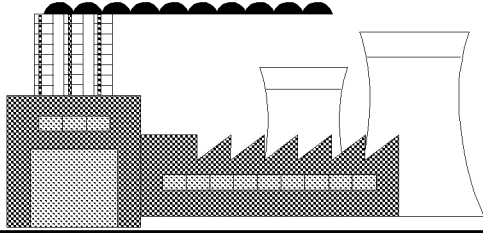


PROPERTY TAX NEWS



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\$243,591 AWARDED FOR TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

STATE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE SET

The Department of Property Valuation, in conjunction with the Kentucky Property Valuation Administrators Association, awarded \$243,591 in grants under the Innovative Technology Fund Grant Program. The PVA offices in the fifteen counties which were awarded grants will contribute a total of \$62,163, for a total project expenditure of \$305,754.

The Innovative Technology Fund was established in 1996 as a means to promote the use of technology among the state's PVA offices. The initial funding was in the amount of \$300,000. Last year, \$178,562 was awarded to six counties, leaving \$121,438 in the fund. This year, PVAs proposed projects totaling over \$500,000. Through some creative budgeting, the Department was able to more than double the amount of money in the grant pool so that more projects could be funded. Grant awards were determined by an impartial committee of information technology and management personnel.

A variety of projects were proposed by PVAs prior to the March 1 deadline. A summary of these successful applications follows.

Ballard County PVA Delores Hatler proposed to establish a GIS-based farm assessment system, utilizing GPS equipment and software and a network upgrade. This project was funded in the amount of \$23,019, with a local match of \$5,755.

Bell County PVA Geraldine Jeffers proposed to develop GIS capability for implementing the conventional mapping project currently in operation, as well as integrating with the 911 system, in cooperation with the Bell County Fiscal Court and the Cumberland Valley Area Development District. This project was funded in the amount of \$28,190, with a local match of \$7,047.

Boone County PVA David Turner proposed to initiate an automated data collection project utilizing laptop computers. This project was funded in the amount of \$12,000, with a local match of \$3,000.

Crittenden County PVA Ronnie Heady proposed to upgrade his old CADD-based farm assessment system to GIS, for use with all classes of property. This project was funded in the amount of \$15,990, with a local match of \$3,997.

Edmonson County PVA Benton Cowles proposed to acquire a scanner and upgrade his existing TRIM network with a Y2K compatible computer and a digital camera. This project was funded in the amount of \$5,287, with a local match of \$1,322.

Fleming County PVA Connie Crain proposed a GIS with GPS control, digital photography and NT network upgrade. This project was funded in the amount of \$14,560, with a local match of \$3,640.

The 1999 state real property tax rate has been set at 14.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Under House Bill 44, the rate must be reviewed each year and adjusted to ensure that no more than a 4 percent cumulative increase in revenues is realized over the previous year.

The 1999 rate represents a 3.3 percent decline from the 1998 rate of 15.3¢. According to Revenue Cabinet Secretary Sarah Jane Schaaf, "Kentucky taxpayers have saved an estimated \$1.8 billion in state property tax payments alone through the cumulative decline of the state rate since the enactment of House Bill 44."

The establishment of the 1999 tax rate enables those counties certified by the Revenue Cabinet to proceed with tax bill preparation once the local rates are set.



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CAMPBELL COUNTY PVA RESIGNS

Bill Kaiser, Campbell County Property Valuation Administrator, resigned April 23, 1999. Kaiser served as PVA in Campbell County since 1993.

Governor Paul Patton appointed Mariann Dunn to fill the vacancy until the results of the general election are certified in November. Dunn has been nominated as the Democratic candidate and will run against Kevin Gordon, the Republican candidate, in November.

NEW PVA APPOINTED IN OHIO COUNTY

Governor Paul Patton has appointed Jason Scott Chinn as Property Valuation Administrator in Ohio County. Chinn holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University.

Chinn fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Emma Geary. The appointment will expire after the results of the general election are certified in November.

NEW WASHINGTON COUNTY PVA APPOINTED

Governor Paul Patton appointed Margaret Platt as Property Valuation Administrator in Washington County. Platt has served as a deputy in the Washington County office since 1987 and earned her Certified Kentucky Assessor and Senior Kentucky Assessor designations in 1991 and 1993, respectively.

Platt's appointment will expire when the results of the general election are finalized in November.

PROPERTY TAX NEWS ON THE WEB

Property Tax News is now on the web! *Property Tax News* is on the Revenue Cabinet's Online Taxpayer Service Center. You can find it at <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/revenue>.

Other property tax publications that are available include:

Kentucky Property Tax Rates for 1997-98 are also on the Cabinet's website. These books contain tax rates from state and local governmental units in Kentucky, including county, city, school and special taxing districts. The Department no longer produces a paper version of this publication.

Appeals Process for Real Property Assessments is a brochure that explains the appeals process for real property.

Appeals Process for Personal Property Assessments is a brochure that explains the appeals process for personal property. Both of these publications are available in hard copy from the Department.

The Cabinet's Online Taxpayer Service Center contains a large selection of downloadable tax forms for most taxes administered by the Cabinet. Several informative publications are also available, as are phone numbers and addresses of Cabinet personnel.



Jason Scott Chinn



Margaret Platt

PERSONNEL CHANGES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY VALUATION

Wyatt Gregory, a fixture in the MOTAX section for 9 years, has left the Department of Property Valuation and been appointed supervisor of the Motor Vehicle Usage Tax Section in the Division of Compliance and Taxpayer Assistance.

The Department also welcomes three new additions to the Division of Local Valuation. Wendall Sholar has joined the Northern Field Branch as a Property Assessment Coordinator. He will be working in the counties of Mason, Lewis, Scott, Bourbon, Clark, Montgomery, Menifee and Morgan.

John May joins the Western Field Branch as a Property Assessment Coordinator. He will be working in the counties of Livingston, Trigg, McCracken, Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle, and Ballard.

Jerry Hume has been appointed Property Assessment Coordinator in the Western Field Branch. He will be working in the counties of Breckinridge, Meade, Grayson, Hancock, Ohio, Henderson, and McLean.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bill Carter, PVA Association President

As my second term as President of the PVA Association comes to a close, the officers and Legislative Committee members are hard at work preparing for the legislative session beginning January 2000. We have the best opportunity ever to finally get PVA salaries equitable with county officials. In the 1998 session of the legislature, we were able to win approval to hire 22 additional deputies. With the same team effort in 2000 as in 1998, we will be successful in passing the pay bill and helping to pass other property tax legislation.

During the 1998 session the cooperation on legislative matters between the Cabinet and the PVA Association was never better. I want to thank Secretary Schaaf, Deputy Secretary Mike Haydon and Commissioner Vince Lang for the professional and friendly manner in which they have worked with the officers of the PVA Association and the support they have given all PVAs during the past two years.

This past year the association officers and the Commissioner and his staff began having quarterly meetings. The meetings have proved to be very productive and I feel will continue to be in the future.

Committees active this year and their chairs are:

Agriculture Committee:

Mike Alexander, Fulton County, Chair
The agriculture committee, working with the Department, developed new agriculture land values. Mike Alexander, Jeff Kelly and the entire committee again did a great job.

Deputy Classification Committee:
Denise Harper Angel, Jefferson County, Chair

The Deputy Classification committee reviewed the deputy job descriptions and pay grades and made some changes, which will be helpful in hiring and keeping good deputies.

Budget Committee:

Virgil Monroe, Todd County, Chair

The budget committee met often and kept track of budget expenditures and deputy position allocations. Virgil Monroe has chaired this committee for the past four years and he and other committee members deserve our thanks for their dedication and hard work.

Education Committee:

Neila Monroe, Mercer County, Chair

The education committee has done a great job this year. More than an ample number of classes have been offered and each class has good instructors. This year scholarships have been awarded several counties. The PVA Association, the Kentucky IAAO Chapter and the education committee have worked together to make this possible. Thanks to Neila Monroe and all members of the committee.



TECHNOLOGY FUND GRANTS AWARDED

(Continued from Page 1)

Hart County PVA Mary Bunnell proposed a network upgrade for the existing TRIM system and to accommodate a proposed GIS project, including a new server/workstation, scanner, and Windows NT operating system. This project was funded in the amount of \$15,026, with a local match of \$3,757.

Lincoln County PVA David Gambrel proposed a major upgrade of his existing TRIM network, enhanced with GIS/GPS and digital camera capability. This project was funded in the amount of \$28,428, with a local match of \$7,107.

Logan County PVA Ben Brown proposed implementing a GIS data collection project, acquiring GPS equipment and software. This project was funded in the amount of \$9,040, with a local match of \$2,260.

Marshall County PVA Ann Riley proposed adding GPS capability to the PVA office, utilizing Trimble GPS equipment, training and a notebook computer. This project was funded in the amount of \$11,995, with a local match of \$2,999.

Morgan County PVA Darrell Bradley proposed acquiring digital photography capability, utilizing a Sony Mavica camera and a Photo Smart Printer. This project was funded in the amount of \$770, with a local match of \$193.

Pike County PVA Lonnie Osborne proposed a full scale GIS implementation, with access to the software from 15 workstations on a Windows NT network, and five digital cameras. This project was funded in the amount of \$34,942, with a local match of \$10,000.

Rowan County PVA C. J. Baker proposed a system which would give the PVA office and taxpayers access to the County Clerk's computerized (deed) indexing system. This project was funded in the amount of \$6,000, with a local match of \$1,500.

Trigg County PVA Mike Bryan proposed the implementation of a GIS/GPS system in cooperation with the Trigg County Fiscal Court and the Pennyryle Area Development District. This project was funded in the amount of \$18,344, with a local match of \$4,586.

Webster County PVA Jeff Kelley proposed a GIS/GPS system, including a server, three workstations, GPS equipment, a notebook computer, a digital camera and a plotter. This project was funded in the amount of \$20,000, with a local match of \$5,000.

In addition to the 20 percent match requirement, grant recipients were required to submit progress reports on project implementation, as well as present workshops or other demonstrations at the request of the Department. The results of this funding should also be apparent in the methods utilized in twenty-one PVA offices, with improved assessment quality and taxpayer service as the ultimate result.



IAAO CONFERENCE

“We Value the World” is the theme of the 1999 IAAO Conference being held September 27 - 30 at Bally’s in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kentucky will be represented at this year’s conference with a workshop based on the Assessment Trivia workshop that was so popular at last year’s fall conference.

PVAs attending conference workshops can receive credit towards their hours of education if they have verification of attendance (IAAO recertification credit form).

Regular members of IAAO should have already received information about the conference, including a registration form. Members receive a discount if they register by August 6. Special activities are also planned, including golf, tennis, and tours of the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam.

The Kentucky Chapter is planning to meet during the conference. Watch your mail for more information on the date and time.

Questions regarding the conference can be directed to IAAO at 800-616-IAAO.



EDUCATION UPDATE

The following classes are in danger of being cancelled due to low enrollment:

Ky. 9	Pine Mountain	Pineville	Aug. 9 - 12
Ky. 5	Carter Caves	Olive Hill	Aug. 16-19
Ky. 7	Carriage House	Paintsville	Sept. 13 - 16
Ky. 8	Jenny Wiley	Prestonsburg	Sept. 20-23
Ky. 3	Natural Bridge	Slade	Sept. 20-23
Practical Math	Drawbridge	Ft. Mitchell	Oct. 12 - 15

Anyone interested in attending any of these classes should register as soon as possible.

The following classes are closed:

Ky. 4	Best Western	Frankfort	Aug. 2 - 5
IAAO 102	Best Western	Frankfort	Aug. 2 - 5
Ky. 2	Ky. Dam Village	Gilbertsville	Aug. 23-26
IAAO 101	Hampton Inn	Frankfort	Sept. 13 - 17
Ky. 9	Best Western	Frankfort	Oct. 11-14

TRIM CLASSES SCHEDULED

The TRIM staff will conduct one-day workshops for those counties printing tax bills using the TRIM system July 26-29, 1999. Classes will be held in the 200 Fair Oaks Building, Training Room F. Classes start at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end about 3:30 p.m. Students must check in at the security desk on the first floor to receive a visitor's badge and escort.

Class space is limited to ten counties per day and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Counties with new PVAs have first priority. At least one representative from each office should plan to attend the class, preferably the staff member most familiar with TRIM. To register, complete a registration form and mail it to Stacey Ewalt, P. O. Box 1202, Frankfort, Ky. 40602-1202. There is no charge for these workshops.

**Calendar of Events
Summer - Fall 1999**

PVA Summer Conference	July 19 - 23	Florence	Holiday Inn-Airport
Ky. 4	Aug. 2 - 5	Frankfort	Best Western
IAAO 102	Aug. 2 - 6	Frankfort	Best Western
Ky. 9	Aug. 9 - 12	Pineville	Pine Mountain SRP
Ky. 5	Aug. 16-19	Olive Hill	Carter Caves SRP
Ky. 2	Aug. 23-26	Gilbertsville	Ky. Dam Village SRP
Ky. 8	Aug. 30 - Sept 2	Falls of Rough	Rough River SRP
Ky. 7	Sept. 13 - 16	Paintsville	Carriage House
Ky. 3	Sept. 20-23	Slade	Natural Bridge SRP
Ky. 8	Sept. 20-23	Prestonsburg	Jenny Wiley SRP
IAAO Conference	Sept. 27-Oct.1	Las Vegas	Bally's
Ky. 9	Oct. 11 - 14	Frankfort	Best Western
Data Collection	Oct. 12 - 15	Ft. Mitchell	Drawbridge Inn
Math for Assessors	Oct. 12 - 15	Ft. Mitchell	Drawbridge Inn
Fall Conference	Oct. 25 - 29	Paducah	Executive Inn

Property Tax News is a quarterly publication of the Revenue Cabinet's Department of Property Valuation dedicated to increasing communication among professionals involved in the field of assessment administration in Kentucky.

Comments and suggestions for future articles should be addressed to Cindy Meholovitch, Editor, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, KY 40620, (502) 564-8340.

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