

Appendix A

Travis Central Appraisal District General Policies & Procedures for Public Access

I. General Information about the District

The Travis Central Appraisal District's (District's) primary function is appraising taxable property for Travis County, cities, school districts and a number of other special taxing units such as fire, water, and hospital districts, which levy property taxes within their jurisdictional boundaries. The District appraises thousands of property parcels annually. The District also administers property tax exemptions and determines taxable situs of property. The chief executive of the District is the chief appraiser. The Board meets at least once each calendar quarter and more often when there is business to discuss.

II. District Board of Directors

The governing body of the District is its Board of Directors (Board), who are elected or appointed by the taxing units served by the District. The Board selects a chief appraiser, the Taxpayer Liaison Officer, and Board general counsel. The Board also adopts the annual District budget, and ensures that the District follows policies and procedures, appropriate state laws and regulations. The Board does not appraise property, hear protests or make decisions affecting appraisal records.

III. Chief Appraiser

The chief appraiser and the chief appraiser's staff appraise property within the District. If you have a concern about the appraisal of property, you should first discuss it with the District's staff. Complaints regarding appraisals that cannot be resolved at the District staff level can be addressed by a written protest to the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

IV. Appraisal Review Board (ARB)

The Appraisal Review Board (ARB) is a group of citizens appointed by the Travis County Administrative Law Judge that serve as the adjudicative or judicial part of the property tax protest system. The ARB is a separate body from the District and serves a different function. The ARB hears and resolves disputes over appraisal matters based on evidence provided by both the property owner and the District. The ARB's duties and a property owner's right to protest are more thoroughly explained in the pamphlet entitled, "Property Taxpayer Remedies" which is available on the District's website at www.tcad.org. A copy is also mailed with each owner's Notice of Appraised Value.

V. Taxpayer Liaison Officer

The Taxpayer Liaison Officer handles public access, informational matters and provides clerical assistance to the Travis County Administrative Law Judge. The Taxpayer Liaison Officer also resolves complaints that fall outside the jurisdiction of the ARB. At each regular meeting of the Board, the Taxpayer Liaison Officer reports on the number, nature and status of resolution on any complaints.

The Taxpayer Liaison Officer also:

- administers the appraisal District's public access functions;
- provides information and materials to the public to assist property owners in understanding the appraisal process, procedures for filing comments, suggestions or complaints, and related matters;

- resolves disputes that do not involve matters that may be protested under Tax Code 41.41 and provides reports to the Board on the status of all complaints;
- receives, compiles and forwards complaints, comments and suggestions concerning ARB matters to the Texas Comptroller's Office; and
- delivers ARB applications received and provides clerical assistance to the Travis County Administrative Law Judge as part of the ARB selection process.
- Performs similar duties and responsibilities as assigned.

VI. Who May Address the Board

It is the policy of the Board to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to address the Board at any open meeting of the Board on any issue or matter within its jurisdiction in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The Board allows each member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting of the Board to address the Board regarding the item at the meeting before or during the Board's consideration of the item. Generally, the Board's statutory duties and jurisdiction involve:

- Adopting general policies regarding the operation of the District;
- Adopting the District's annual budget;
- Contracting for necessary services and facilities;
- Selecting the chief appraiser, Taxpayer Liaison Officer, and Board General Counsel and assigning responsibilities to the positions.

VII. Procedures for Speaking at a Board Meeting

The procedures for addressing the Board are outlined below:

Speaking on an Item Not Listed on the Agenda:

The "Citizen Communication" agenda item is an opportunity for the public to address the Board on a subject within the Board's jurisdiction that is not listed as a separate item on the Board's meeting agenda. To be eligible to speak during "Citizen Communication," persons must complete a Speaker Registration Form and submit it to the Board's presiding officer before the meeting begins. At the beginning of each regular meeting, the presiding officer will use the Speaker Registration Forms to invite those who wish to speak during "Citizen Communication" to come forward to the podium, state their name and address for the record, and make their remarks within the prescribed time limits. State law does not allow the Board to deliberate on any item that is not listed on its agenda; and limits any Board action to making a statement of fact or policy about the topic; or direct that the topic be placed on a future agenda.

Speaking on an Item Listed on the Agenda:

This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board concerning on a subject that is listed as a separate agenda item. To be eligible to speak on an item listed on the Board agenda, before the meeting begins, persons must complete a Speaker Registration Form, including the letter or number of the agenda item that they wish to speak to the Board about. At the beginning of the discussion on the item, the presiding officer will use the Speaker Registration Forms to invite those who wish to speak on that item to come forward to the podium, state their name and address for the record, and make their remarks within the prescribed time limits. The presiding officer may, but is not required to, invite anyone who did not fill out and submit a Speaker Registration Form before the meeting began, to come forward and address the Board before calling for a vote on the item.

Speaker Time Limits:

General Rule – Each person will have three (3) minutes to address the Board, unless one of the following

exceptions applies.

Exception for Speakers Needing Translators – Speakers who will be addressing the Board through a translator, in which case they will have six (6) minutes to address the Board. Citizens may be accompanied by their own translator or request that a translator be provided by the District. Please note, however, that requests for a translator to be provided by the District must be made at least seven (7) days in advance of the Board meeting. The Board’s presiding officer may limit the time for each speaker if comments are repetitive.

Exception for Donating Time – Persons may also donate their time to another speaker if (a) they are present when the speaker begins to address the Board, and (b) they specify the name of the speaker to whom they are donating their time.

Exception for Consent Agenda Items – Items on the “Consent Agenda” can be acted upon by the Board in one vote rather than by separate votes for each item listed. Persons may register to speak on the Consent Agenda as a whole for a total of three (3) minutes, regardless of the number of Consent Agenda items for which the person has signed up to speak. Only a Board member can make a motion to remove items from the Consent Agenda and be voted upon separately, in which case the procedures for speaking on regular agenda items apply.

Exception for Executive Session – Citizen participation is not permitted during Executive Session.

Prohibited Speech – The presiding officer may limit or terminate the speaking time of speakers who use obscene, vulgar or profane language, or whose speech is prohibited by law. However, the Board will not prohibit criticism of the Board, or any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service of the District, unless the criticism is otherwise prohibited by law.

Reasonable time shall be provided during each Board meeting for public comment on District and ARB policies and procedures, and a report from the Taxpayer Liaison Officer. [Tax Code § 6.04(d)]

VIII. Policies for Reviewing and Responding to Complaints

The Board will consider written complaints about the policies and procedures of the District, the ARB, the Board, any specific member thereof, or any other matter within the Board’s lawful jurisdiction. Complaints should specify the name of the individual(s), Board or department involved, dates, nature of the complaint and the complainant’s contact information. *Please note, however, that the Board is prohibited by law from addressing any matter that might involve a challenge, protest, or correction before the ARB. Additionally, the Board has no authority to overrule the chief appraiser or an ARB decision on a value, correction, or a protest.*

Please mail or deliver written complaints and correspondence to:

Taxpayer Liaison Officer
Travis Central Appraisal District
P.O. Box 149012
Austin, TX 78714-9012
taxpayerliaison@tcadcentral.org

At each regularly scheduled meeting, the Taxpayer Liaison Officer shall report to the Board on the nature of complaints and the status of resolution, if there are any.

Board deliberations concerning complaints will comply with provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter

551, Government Code.

Until final disposition of a complaint, the Taxpayer Liaison Officer will notify the complainant at least quarterly on the status of a complaint, unless such a notice would jeopardize an investigation.

IX. Interpreters/Translators

The Board will provide an interpreter or translator at a Board meeting upon the request of a person who does not speak English or who must communicate by sign language. The request must be in writing, received by the Taxpayer Liaison Officer at least seven (7) days before the meeting at which the interpreter is needed, state the language required to be interpreted or translated, and state that the requestor is unable to provide his or her own interpreter or translator. If the written request is not received by the Taxpayer Liaison Officer at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, the District will not be able to make the appropriate accommodations.

X. Access by Disabled Persons

The District's offices are wheelchair accessible. Disabled persons who wish to address the Board and need special assistance for entry, or access, should notify the Taxpayer Liaison Officer in writing at least seven (7) days before the meeting. The District office has van accessible parking spaces available to handicapped persons in its parking lot in front of the building. The main entrance doors have wheelchair assist buttons.

The Board meeting room is also wheelchair accessible. A person who needs additional assistance for entry or access should notify the Taxpayer Liaison Officer in writing at least seven (7) days before the meeting. If notice is not given within seven (7) days the District will attempt to make the appropriate accommodations.

XI. Community Outreach

District personnel are available to speak to your organization and address issues on taxpayer rights, exemption issues, recent changes to property tax laws and other appraisal related issues of interest. A minimum of two (2) weeks advance notice is required. For more information on our community outreach program, please contact the Taxpayer Liaison Officer at (512) 834-9317 or via email at taxpayerliaison@tcadcentral.org.

XII. Tax Calendar

January 1:	Statutory date for appraisal of all taxable property at 100% of market value.
	Statutory date of determining status for approval of regular residential homestead exemption (Property owner must own and occupy as primary residence on this date.)
April 15:	Last day for property owners to file renditions.
May 15:	Protest deadline for filing a written protest to the Appraisal Review Board is before May 15, or not later than the 30th day after a notice of appraisal has been properly mailed to the property owner at the address of record, whichever is later.
July 25:	Generally, the date by which the chief appraiser must certify taxable values to the taxing units.
October/ November	Tax bills are mailed to property owners by the appropriate tax assessor/collector office.
January 31:	Last day to pay previous tax year property taxes at the tax assessor/collectors office without penalty and interest added.

**TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Address:

8314 Cross Park Drive, Austin, Texas 78754

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 7:45 am - 4:45 pm

Administration

Phone: (512) 834-9317

TDD: (512) 836-3328

Appraisal Support

(512) 834-2582

ARB

(512) 692-0157

Taxpayer Liaison Officer

(512) 834-9317

taxpayerliaison@tcadcentral.org

Business Personal Property

(512)834-1565

Commercial Property

(512) 873-1575

Customer Service

(512) 834-8651

GIS/ IT

(512) 834-8732

Residential Property / Land

(512) 873-1529