



County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
138 EAST COURT STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

June 28, 2013

Governor John R. Kasich
77 S. High Street – 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

BY FAX: (614) 466-9354

Dear Governor Kasich:

The Homestead Exemption provisions in the State Budget Bill will make second-class citizens of Ohio property owners who reach age 65 from this date forward.

While those currently receiving the Homestead Exemption will continue to have the benefit of a significant property tax reduction with no limitations, the reduction will not be available to newly eligible property owners if they have an income of \$30,000 or more.

As County Auditor I foresee many situations where neighbors are treated disparately based on the date they reached age 65. In addition, reinstituting the income test will impose additional administrative costs on our office and require applicants to share their private financial data with yet another level of government.

When the income test was removed Hamilton County alone went from 8,500 to 47,000 participants in the Homestead Program. Now, some six years later, this legislation proposes to reverse course, reimpose the requirement, create more bureaucracy (at the county level) and further confuse senior citizens.

I urge you to line-item veto this unjust provision.

Sincerely,

Dusty Rhodes
County Auditor

