Caney Valley Unified School District #436





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Blake A. Vargas Superintendent

March 12, 2024

Chair Smith and Members of the House Tax Committee,

Ensuring the use of a standard form for reporting information crucial to revenue-neutral calculations is of utmost importance. If a district is in four counties, that is four unique and separate forms they must interpret and could change with a new clerk as well. A standardized form guarantees consistency and uniformity in data collection across diverse jurisdictions, simplifying processing and minimizing errors in interpretation. By offering a clear template, standard forms streamline administrative tasks, reducing the time and effort required for paperwork completion and processing, benefiting both applicants and administrators alike.

Although a district may experience no tax increases, a rise in assessed valuation often leads to potential increases in revenue-neutral outcomes. This scenario can be misconstrued by certain groups or individuals as negative, especially if they associate revenue with their local school district's tax rate. Removing the General 20 mils from schools as a required component of revenue neutrality ensures that taxing entities focus on areas genuinely within their control.

Finally, if transparency is a key objective of current legislation, enabling districts to publish information on their websites significantly enhances accessibility, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness. Websites provide round-the-clock access from anywhere with an internet connection, surpassing the limitations of weekly newspaper distribution. Additionally, websites offer the flexibility to incorporate multimedia content, including videos, photo galleries, and interactive elements, offering users a more immersive and engaging experience which is well needed as complex as taxing matters can be.

Sincerely,

Blake A. Vargas Superintendent





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