



Senator Rupp Reminds Homeowners of Available Tax Credits

JEFFERSON CITY — April 17th, Tax Day, has come and gone, and the federal and state governments have worked their way into your pocketbooks and plucked away their share... maybe more than a fair share... of *your* hard-earned money. Now, it's time to work on a credit that will keep those pocketbooks closed and help you keep more of *your* tax dollars.

Recently, property assessment forms were sent out to the folks in Lincoln and St. Charles Counties, and some people's tax bills will be going up. If you think that there is a problem with your assessment, contact the St. Charles County Assessor at (636) 949-7425 or the Lincoln County Assessor at (636) 528-6300. But there are also a couple of other ways of reducing that tax burden.

First, the state's Homestead Preservation Tax Credit is available to elderly homeowners. If you are 65 and your spouse is at least 60, your yearly income is not more than \$70,000, and your property tax bill is going up at least 5% in this assessment year (2.5% in non-assessment years), then you can receive a credit toward your tax bill. Just complete [Form HPC](#) and mail the application form and all supporting documents by September 30th to the Missouri Department of Revenue, PO Box 478, Jefferson City, MO 65105-0478. You can also get a form by calling toll-free 1-800-877-6881 or going to DOR's website: www.dor.mo.gov/tax/personal/homestead. Remember, you must apply for the credit each year. Don't assume that if you got it last year, it would be automatically applied this year.

Second is the "Circuit Breaker" Tax Credit. This is similar to the Homestead Preservation Tax Credit, except that it also covers rent, and the income requirements are quite a bit lower: \$25,000/year for elderly singles, \$27,000 for couples at least 65 years old. If approved, the state will send you a check for up to \$750. Once again, contact the Department of Revenue at PO Box 478, Jefferson City, MO 65105-0478 or call 1-800-877-6881 or go online at www.dor.mo.gov/tax. The April 17th deadline for this year has come and gone, but you can still file an amended return and get the credit. In fact, you can file amended returns and get the money for up to three years from the original due date to file.

You do have to pick one or the other... you can't cash in on both. But, hopefully, either the Homestead Preservation Tax Credit or the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit will apply to your situation.

You've worked hard all of your life to have a little bit of money to make it through your golden years. Why should Uncle Sam, or for that matter, Uncle Missouri take it all? If you promise to take advantage of these credits we

lawmakers have tried so hard to make available to you, I promise to keep finding ways to make sure the tax burden is not one penny more than it has to be.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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