



County of Ventura

Office of the County Assessor

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DAN GOODWIN, MAI
ASSESSOR

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Chief Deputy Assessor

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assessor.countyofventura.org

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Assessor Warns of Scam Directed at Nonprofits

[Ventura, Calif.] Assessor Dan Goodwin is alerting community organizations to an increase in reports about misleading solicitations targeting nonprofit organizations and demanding payment for free services. Their letters are designed to mimic government inquiries with official-looking logos, bar codes and stern warnings of the consequences for not completing the form and paying the fee. One example is similar to property tax exemption claims filed with the Assessor. It requests \$150 for what is actually a free service and warns that failure to comply could result in severe penalties and personal liability. Goodwin advises organizations to be careful not to pay unnecessary fees for free services and to contact his office about questionable solicitations.

The Assessor does not charge to file any annual claim form, including property tax exemption claims available to religious and charitable nonprofit organizations. Claim forms are mailed annually to qualified organizations and are also available at no cost through the Assessor's website at assessor.countyofventura.org.

To report suspicious mailings or for more information about exemption programs, Assessor staff is available during business hours by phone at 805-654-2680, in person, or via email at assessor.info@ventura.org.

"Nonprofit organizations are the backbone of our community. Property tax exemption claim forms can be obtained and filed for free so these vital organizations can use their funds to continue to serve our community," said Goodwin.

This year the \$134.9 billion tax roll includes \$4.6 billion in exemptions for homeowners, disabled veterans, hospitals, churches, colleges, museums and other charitable nonprofit organizations.

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Dan Goodwin has served Ventura County residents as their Assessor for 19 years. To learn more about property taxes, please visit assessor.countyofventura.org.