

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Colorado

Forum on the
Senior Property
Tax Exemption

Co-hosted by:

SAPGA

Strategic Action
Planning Group
on Aging

CSL COLORADO
SENIOR LOBBY

CGS
COLORADO GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BUILDING LEADERSHIP IN AGING

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Your co-hosts: Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA), Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) and Colorado Gerontological Society (CGS)

Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption Agenda

August 14, 2018

8:45 AM	Welcome	Karen Brown	Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging – Chair
		Bob Brocker	Colorado Senior Lobby – Board Member
		Eileen Doherty	Colorado Gerontological Society – Executive Director
		Ed Sealover	Denver Business Journal – Reporter and Master of Ceremonies
8:55 AM	Homestead Exemption Overview	Greg Sobetski	Legislative Council Staff – Senior Economist
		Senator Dominick Moreno	– Joint Budget Committee
		Representative Bob Rankin	– Joint Budget Committee
9:45 AM	Point / Counterpoint	Eileen Doherty	Colorado Gerontological Society – Executive Director
		George Maxey	Commerce City Commission on Aging – Board Member
		Ali Mickelson	Colorado Fiscal Institute – Director of Legislative and Tax Policy
		Jim Riesberg	Former State Representative and current SAPGA Member and past Chair of SAPGA
10:45 AM	Break		
11:00 AM	Facilitated Breakout Groups		
11:45 AM	General Feedback		
11:50 AM	Closing Remarks	Karen Brown	Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging – Chair
		Bob Brocker	Colorado Senior Lobby – Board Member
		Eileen Doherty	Colorado Gerontological Society – Executive Director
12:00PM	Adjourn Meeting		
12:30 PM --	CSL Annual Meeting	Director Election / Other Business	

Presenters and Panelists at Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption Event

Bob Brocker is a retired railroad executive who became interested in aging-related issues when he joined the board of A Little Help (alittlehelp.org) - "connecting neighbors to help seniors thrive" eight years ago. He has become a nearly full-time volunteer advocate for Colorado seniors and is a board member of Colorado Senior Lobby, A Little Help, and the DRCOG Advisory Committee on Aging.

Karen Brown is the Chair of the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging, Ambassador for Aging2.0 Denver Chapter and CEO of Seniors Matter. Her focus is on catalyzing change in policy, programs, products and services that will improve the lives of older people and their caregivers and support network. She is a leader in the aging space relative to technologies that can improve the lives, save money and provide independence, choice and control to older people and their caregivers.

Eileen Doherty has been the Executive Director of the Colorado Gerontological Society since 1982 and has more than 40 years of experience in education and training, clinical practice, research, and public policy in gerontology. She has authored and published numerous publications on senior issues, served on numerous public policy committees and Boards of Directors and received many awards and recognitions. She lectures frequently on a wide variety of senior issues including Medicare, Medicaid, long term care, housing, health, and economics.

George Maxey, 82 years old, has more than 48 years of professional experience as a planner, mentor and manager as an owner of his own business and as an employee. He is active in improving the lives of older adults through his positions and service on the Commerce City Commission on Aging, 18 years as an advisor to the Commerce City Senior Center, and three years with Adams County Aging Network.

Ali Mickelson is the Director of Legislative and Tax Policy at the Colorado Fiscal Institute. Ali oversees the legislative work at CFI and helps design and implement tax and budget policies that promote widespread economic prosperity and help Colorado families.

Senator Dominick Moreno was elected to the Colorado Senate in 2016. He previously served in the Colorado House of Representatives for two terms. He is a member of the Joint Budget Committee, a six-member committee charged with crafting the \$28 billion state budget each year. Dominick attended Georgetown University and graduated with a degree in American Government. Dominick's commitment to using his education to benefit his community led to his election to the city council in Commerce City at the age of 24.

Representative Bob Rankin represents Colorado House District 57, which consists of three counties in the northwest corner of Colorado. He has served for six years in the Colorado House of Representatives including four years on the Joint Budget Committee. Bob retired from a career as an engineer and corporate executive before seeking elected office.

Jim Riesberg earned an MA in Gerontology in 1992 and has remained active in issues on aging at several levels, including the State Legislature and as Colorado Insurance Commissioner. Jim served as the Chair of the Strategic Action Planning Group from 2015 to 2017 and serves on the Weld County Area Agency on Aging.

Ed Sealover is a reporter with the Denver Business Journal who has been covering the Colorado Legislature since 2007 for three separate publications — first The Colorado Springs Gazette, then the Rocky Mountain News and, since 2009, the Denver Business Journal (DBJ).

Greg Sobetski is a senior economist with Legislative Council Staff, the nonpartisan staff of the Colorado General Assembly. For the last five legislative sessions, Greg has advised the legislature on matters of the state economy, the state budget, taxes, and TABOR. He studies the senior homestead exemption as a matter of tax policy and a significant component of state budget decision making. Greg is a Littleton native and lifelong Coloradan.

More about your Co-Hosts for the Senior Property Tax Exemption Forum



Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) – 303-832-4535

ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Colorado Senior Lobby is a non-partisan, 501c4, all-volunteer organization. We do not endorse political parties or candidates; rather, we focus on education, information, and issues. CSL has a 38-year history of being in the unique position of promoting, and continuously working to improve upon, the quality of life and well-being of Colorado seniors.

CSL works closely with other senior organizations, non-profits and government agencies, and is continuously looking for new and innovative programs and services, and sources of funding, to meet the needs of the state's growing senior population.

We invite you to become a member and provide your support, skills, experience, voice, and time. See our representative or go to our website to join and get involved and make an impact on important issues impacting older Coloradans.

Annual membership fees help keep the lights on and the cost is minimal—equal to a few lattes at your favorite coffee shop. And be sure to join us on March 13, 2019 for Senior Day at the Capitol.

Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA)

colorado.gov/agingstrategy

SAPGA was created by the Colorado General Assembly in 2015 and as such, is a governmental agency, charged with creating a comprehensive strategic action plan on aging to the year 2030. The statute, HB15-1033, outlines a wide array of issues to be examined, reviewed, and analyzed regarding the impact of the shifting aging demographic on the state with recommendations to be made to the Governor and General Assembly to ensure the state, communities and individuals are better prepared to address the needs of an aging population. SAPGA issued its first edition of The Action Plan in November 2016 including nearly two dozen recommendations covering retirement security, caregiving, workforce issues, transportation, senior housing, elder abuse and more. The statute further suggests SAPGA issue another report in late 2018 and again in 2020 – with the group sunseting in 2022.

You are invited to participate in SAPGA Working Group meetings held on the second Monday of each month at 1001 17th Street, Denver, Colorado. You are also invited to get involved in our Transportation and Workforce Committee meetings held monthly - all times and locations of SAPGA and Committee meetings are on the website. Also, sign-up for our mailing list to receive updates about important news and upcoming events, including special forums of the Legislative Caucus on Aging to be held during the 2019 legislative session!

SAPGA Work Group members are all volunteers. When funding is available, administrative contractors support the volunteers.

The Colorado Gerontological Society (CGS) – 303-333-3482

SeniorAnswers.org

The Colorado Gerontological Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides advocacy, information and assistance to Colorado seniors as well as education and networking for aging professionals since 1980 as well as services to older adults and their families. The Society provides for information, counseling, and referral regarding Medicare/Medicaid, long term care, housing, economic security, food, caregiving, advance care planning, health literacy, and other issues facing older adults and their families. Counselors consult with the individual and their family to understand the problem, work to identify and prioritize solutions, and help to arrange services. Services may be provided by our staff, other agencies or volunteers. Counselors can also assist with filing forms for tax rebates and homestead exemption, Medicare/Medicaid applications, food stamps; advance care planning, Social Security, Old Age Pension, Medicare Savings Program, Extra Help and supplemental insurance benefits. The Society also administers grants to help low income older adults with dental, vision and hearing services for those over 60 in the Denver metro area.

Colorado Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption Overview

Presented by Greg Sobetski - Legislative Council Staff – Senior Economist

Senior Homestead Exemption

Referendum A

- Constitutional amendment passed in 2000 with 55 percent support; effective 2002

Exemption available to all seniors, and surviving spouses of deceased seniors who:

- Own their home
- Have resided in their home for at least 10 years

Exempts 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual home property value. Property tax benefit of the exemption differs according to a senior's home value and local mill levy.

In 2002, 123,300 senior households accessed the exemption. Average value was \$499.

In 2017, 237,300 senior households accessed the exemption. Average value was \$545.

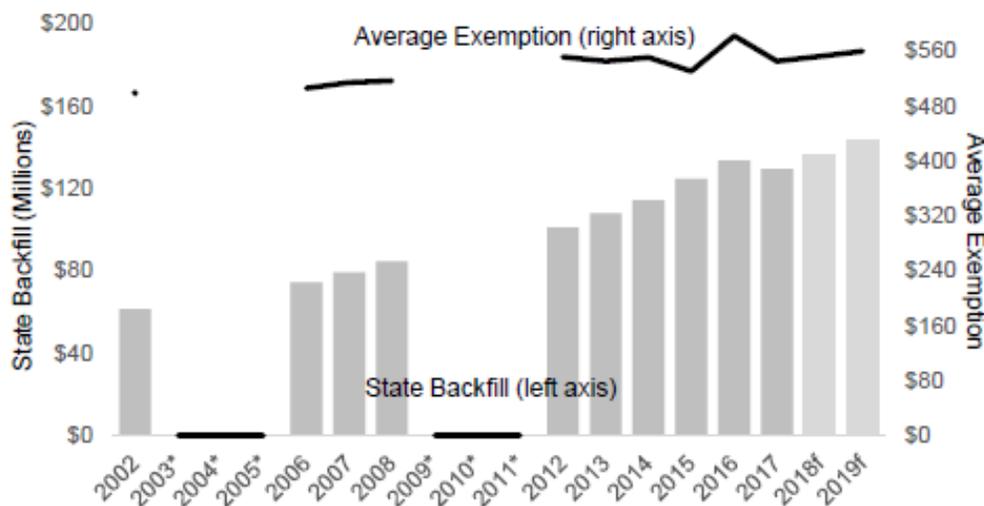
Property tax is collected exclusively by local governments (there is no federal or state property tax). The state reimburses local governments for lost property tax revenue.

For 2002, state reimbursements totaled \$61.5 million

For 2017, state reimbursements totaled \$129.3 million

State reimbursements expected to grow to \$143.5 million for 2019

History of the Senior Homestead Exemption



Sources: Division of Property Taxation; Department of the Treasury; Legislative Council Staff.

*Denotes years when senior homestead exemption was reduced to \$0 by the legislature

*f denotes forecast

The constitution allows the legislature to raise or lower the \$200,000 exemption cap. For 2003 through 2005, and for 2009 through 2011, the cap was lowered to \$0. In these years, seniors did not receive an exemption.

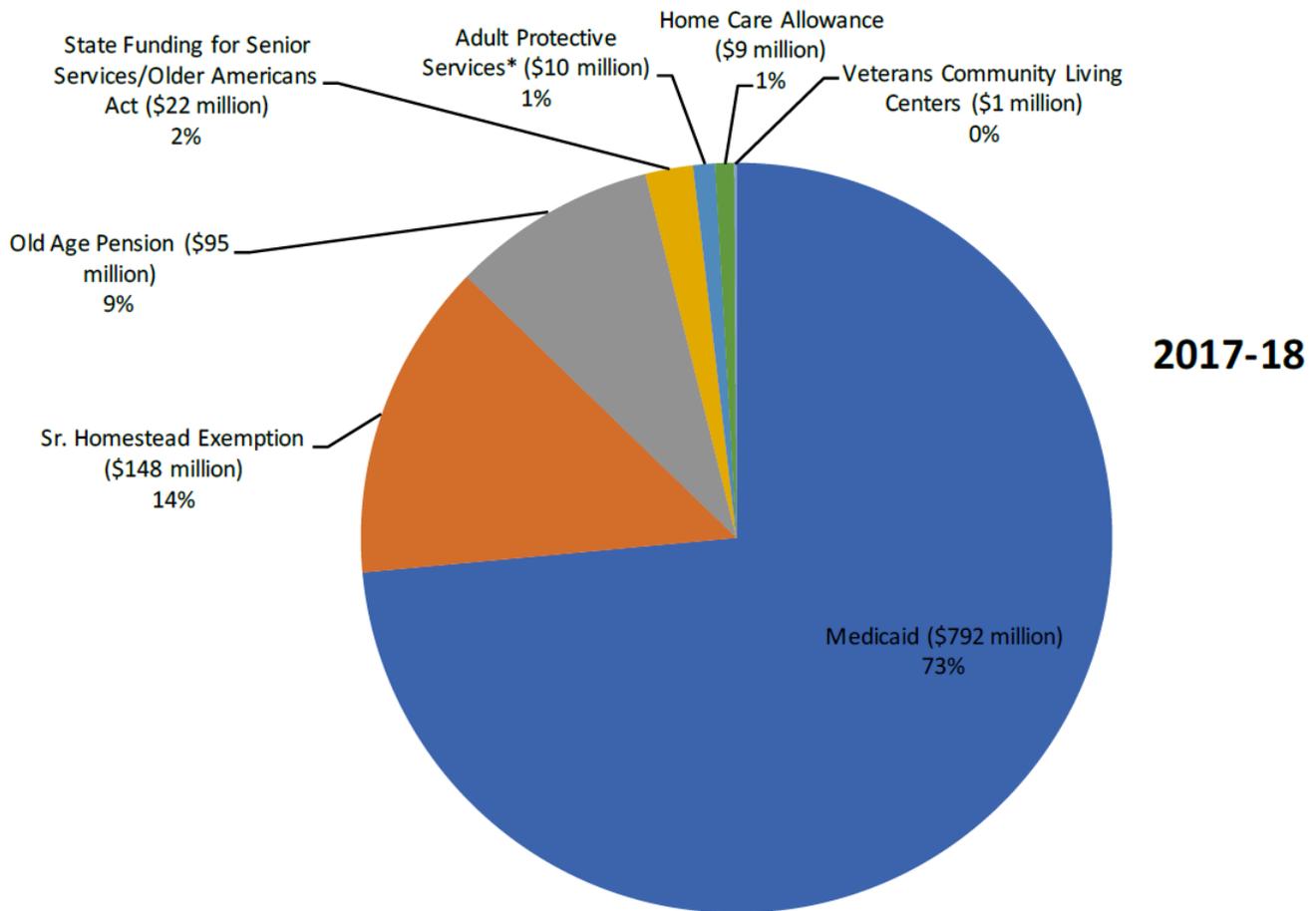
Demographics. The state's senior population was 434,000 in 2002 and grew by about 4.0% annually to 778,000 in 2017. It will exceed 1 million in 2023 and 1.25 million in 2031, driving up the cost of the exemption.

Prepared by Legislative Council Staff, August 2018

Greg Sobetski, Senior Economist, 303-866-4105 or greg.sobetski@state.co.us

Colorado Aging Budget Overview – General Fund

This pie chart is showing the rough portion of this specific budget line that is spent on older Coloradans.



Source: PowerPoint from Colorado's State Budget on Aging, Sam Zacher, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting; Presented April 9, 2018 to Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA)

How the Senior Homestead Exemption Works for Seniors

- Applies to seniors age 65+, or surviving spouses
- Property must be primary residence
- Continuously owned and occupied for at least 10 years
- 50 percent of first \$200,000 exempt from property tax
 - e.g., for a \$166,000 residence, taxed as if \$83,000
 - e.g., for a \$265,000 residence, taxed as if \$165,000
- Property tax benefit depends on home value and local mill levy (averaged \$499 in 2002; \$545 in 2017)

How the Senior Homestead Exemption Works for Governments

- Only local governments assess property tax
- Constitution requires state government to reimburse local governments for their revenue loss
- State General Fund expenditure for local government reimbursements in the fiscal year that taxes are paid
- Constitution allows state legislature to adjust \$200,000 cap

See next page for links to accessing these resources online

Resources on the Senior Property Tax Exemption

This is a list of online resources on the Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption

Find all of these materials online at this link - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18>

August 14th Event Program and Materials

August 14, 2018 Event Program

Long Link - http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/news_from_csl/event-program-8-14-18/

Tiny URL - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18>

Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption Primer – PowerPoint

Presented by Presented by Greg Sobetski – Legislative Council Staff – Senior Economist

Long Link - http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/senior_homestead_exemption_a_primer_ppt_8-14-18.pdf

Tiny URL - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18-A>

Senior Property Tax Homestead Exemption Handout

by Greg Sobetski – Legislative Council Staff – Senior Economist

Long Link - http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/senior_homestead_exemption_handout_8-14-18.pdf

Tiny URL - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18-B>

Colorado Aging Budget Overview with Pie Chart – General Fund 2017-2018

Long Link - http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/colorado_aging_budget_overview_piechart_2017-18.pdf

Tiny URL - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18-C>

Forum Survey

Long Link - http://www.coloradoseniorlobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/forum_survey_final-1.pdf

Tiny URL - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18-D>

Signing up for the Senior Property Tax Exemption

Colorado Property Taxation

The Division of Property Taxation coordinates and administers the implementation of property tax law throughout the state and operates under the leadership of the property tax administrator, who is appointed by the State Board of Equalization (state board).

Long Link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/property-taxation-forms#exemptions>

Tiny Url - <https://tinyurl.com/event-program-8-14-18-E>

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Academy Mortgage Corporation - academymortgage.com/ - Julie Glassmeyer – 303-987-0708

A Little Help – alittlehelp.org/

A Little Help is a nonprofit organization that connects neighbors across ages to enhance lives and strengthen our communities.

Denver and Jefferson County: 720-242-9032

Chaffee County: 719-966-7366

Delta County: 970-527-3482

Bridges Community Homecare & Hospice – BridgesCommunityCare.com - 303-500-5055

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At Bridges Community Homecare & Hospice, we believe in working with you, your family, and your physician to develop a plan of care that meets your physical, emotional, and mental needs.

Bright Health – Brighthealthplan.com/ - Toll Free 844-679-2033 – TTY 711

Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging - drcog.org/

With more than 40 years' experience as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the eight-county region, the Denver Regional Council of Government plans and provides comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's population of older adults and people living with disabilities.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) - Information and Assistance - 303-480-6700

Toll-free outside Denver - 1(866) 959-3017

Prime Time for Seniors - MyPrimeTimeNews.com/

The Prime Time newspaper prints an average of 50,000 free copies the first Wednesday of each month. The paper is distributed in over 2,000 locations in 13 counties in and around the Greater Denver area. My Prime Time News is the online version of the Prime Time for Seniors newspaper. Both products are owned and operated by Rambler Media, LLC.

Seniors' Resource Center - srcaging.org/ 303-238-8151

Celebrating 40 Years of Helping Older Adults Age in Place. Seniors' Resource Center is dedicated to enhancing the independence, dignity and quality of life for seniors in the Metro Denver Area and surrounding communities.

SeniorsResourceGuide.com – SeniorsResourceGuide.com

Find news, event calendars and senior service providers online. Sign up for our Colorado Front Range and the national Prepared Senior eNewsletters.

Silvernest - Silvernest.com

Learn how Silvernest can provide a reliable and rewarding home sharing solution. A unique roommate matching service for baby boomers and empty nesters

United Healthcare Medicare Solutions – uhcmedicareolutions.com – Connie Ward – 303-725-7009

We wish to thank all of the local newspapers and local organizations across Colorado that helped promote this event!

Have questions? Contact one of our co-hosts!

Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) – 303-832-4535

The Colorado Gerontological Society (CGS) – 303-333-3482

or email Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging (SAPGA) - sapgacolorado@gmail.com