



CALDWELL COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT LOCAL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Caldwell County Appraisal District Mission Statement

We are required by State Law to provide property tax appraisals that are equal, uniform, and at market value. The State Comptroller Tax Division monitors and conducts reviews of our appraisal standards to make sure we adhere to State Law. What this means for the average property owner is that any increase or decrease in the valuation of a property is part of our effort to adhere to State Law. This will be accomplished by maintaining the highest standards in appraisal practices and lay by developing personnel who are professional and knowledgeable and operate under the stands of:

- The Property Tax Assistance Division of the Texas Comptroller's Office (PTAD)
- The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
- The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP)

The Appraisal District does not set tax rates. These tax rates are set by each of the individual taxing entities of Caldwell County. Lists of these entities are available upon request or can be found on our website.

Appraisal District Overview

The Caldwell County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. The provisions of the Texas Property Tax Code govern the legal, statutory, and administrative requirement of the appraisal district. Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the taxing units within the boundaries of Caldwell County and must live within the district two years prior to serving on the board. The Chief Appraiser is appointed by the Board of Directors and is the chief administrator of the appraisal district. The appraisal District is responsible for local property tax appraisal and exemption administration. The local taxing units such as your County, Schools, Cities, Emergency Service District and Groundwater Conservation District set a tax rate from your property tax appraisal issued by the Appraisal District.

Governance

The Appraisal District operations are governed by the Board of Directors whose members are elected by the voting taxing units every two years. The Board's primary responsibilities are:

- Appoint the Chief Appraiser
- Adopt the Districts annual operating budget
- Contract for necessary services; Complying with the competitive bidding requirement established by law.
- Adopt a Biennially written plan for the periodic reappraisal of all property within the appraisal district office
- Make general policies on the appraisal district's operation

To be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, a person must have resided within the boundaries of the county for at least two years prior to their appointment. Their terms are not staggered and there are no legal limits to the number of terms a board member can serve.

County Statistics

Caldwell County is located 40 miles South of Austin and 12 miles Southeast of San Marcos. Caldwell County is greatly affected by the Austin metro and San Marcos area market values.

The district maintains appraisal values on approximately:

Property Types	Property Count	Market Value
Residential, Commercial, Business, and MH on land	23,490	\$9,609,518,299
Manufactured Homes (MH) on separate personal	3,759	\$284,392,398
Business Personal Property	2,260	\$475,503,950
Minerals, Utilities, and Pipeline	16,865	\$152,182,546

School Districts

The Lockhart school district is located completely inside Caldwell county. The Luling and Prairie Lea schools are located in Caldwell County and Guadalupe County. The Gonzales and Waelder schools are located in Caldwell County and Gonzales County. The San Marcos, Hays, and ACC schools are located in Caldwell County and Hays County.

Valuation Data

Caldwell County is on a three year rotation for an onsite inspection for real property.

After analysis, the overall market for rural acreage values increased an average of 4% from 2022 to 2023. Some rural areas saw a higher change. During our market analysis of rural acreage, we reviewed our rural land zones to better reflect current land market areas throughout the county. This change was reflected in our schedules that are 35 rural land and rural subdivision market land zones. Total all real property Net Taxable value increased +33.30% from 2022 to 2023. There were several areas that may not have seen these changes and some areas may have seen a small decrease. Our Utility Package values remained at \$18,000 for the full water, septic, & sewer package. Various market values may have been changed based on category types to reflect sale prices. Some residential neighborhoods changed from +1% to +8% based on sales analysis. Luling residential land increased from -20% to +10% depending on the area and market analysis. The Luling residential land valuation method using square foot calculation method schedules. Residential houses increased from +2.7% to +31% depending on each class and market analysis. Multi-family properties increased from +1.4% to +20%. Manufactured home schedules increased +1% to 20% based on market analysis. Commercial land values in Lockhart and Luling had a minimal change depending on the area. Rural community residential lots were increased from +10% to +50% depending on how long those values haven't been adjusted and market analysis. The 2023 mineral values increased 24.4% from 2022 due to market change in oil prices.

Exemption Data: The District has various exemptions that taxpayers may qualify for. Homestead and Over 65 residential exemption. You may only apply for residence homestead exemption on one property in a tax year. A homestead may include up to 20 acres of land you actually use in the residential use (occupancy) of your home. To qualify for a homestead exemption, your state issued ID address must match the physical address of the property in which you are qualify for. You may prorate your homestead exemption. The age 65 or older or disability exemption for school taxes includes a school tax limitation or ceiling. Some taxing units such as county and cities have exemptions and tax ceilings limits. The filing of this application is between January 1 and April 30. You may file a late homestead exemption if you file it no later than two years after the date taxes become delinquent. There is also a Transfer of Tax Limitation or Ceiling Certificate if you move out of the county; this can transfer to the new county you reside in. There are other exemptions available. The State mandatory homestead exemption amount is \$100,000 for school districts. Please check our website or call our office.

Collections Department

Caldwell County Appraisal District contracts with 19 of our local taxing entities to create a consolidated tax collection office. Caldwell County Appraisal District has an average Collection Rate of 96%. We work with our Taxpayers to maximize the collections for the entities. The District offers a plan that taxpayers may pay monthly payments that we place in escrow for the following year's taxes. We also offer a Partial Payment Plan on Delinquent taxes. The Caldwell County Appraisal District has an official payment option using your debit or credit card by phone or internet.

Property Appeal Process

The Appraisal Review Board (ARB) consists of five members appointed by the Board of Directors. Members of the ARB serve two-year staggered terms and are limited by law to serving three consecutive two-year terms. To be eligible to serve on the ARB, an individual must be a resident of the district and must have resided in the district for at least two years. Board members are also required to attend annual training classes to be eligible to serve in any given year.

The Appraisal Review Board responsibilities are:

- Determining protests initiated by property owners
- Determining challenges initiated by taxing units
- Correcting clerical errors in the appraisal records and the appraisal rolls
- Acting on motions to correct appraisal rolls under Section 25.25 of the Property Tax Code
- Determining whether exemptions and special appraisals are improperly granted and;
- Taking other actions or making other determinations authorized by the Property Tax Code

AGRICULTURAL 1-D-1 OPEN SPACE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Qualified open-space land does not become ineligible for the special appraisal when a drought is declared by the Governor. We will work with our Farmers and Ranchers during the drought. We are currently requesting updated applications and/or questionnaires on each property as warranted. This will happen if the ownership changes or if the use changes.

The Agricultural Advisory Board is a four member board appointed by the Chief Appraiser with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. The responsibility of the Agricultural Advisory Board is to advise the Chief Appraiser on the valuation and use of land that may be designated for open-space agricultural valuation within the district's boundaries and to assist in determining typical practices and standards used in various farming operations.

PTAD REVIEWS

Appraisal practices are governed by the Texas Property Tax Code and rules established by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Property Tax Assistance Division conducts a Property Value Study and a Methods and Assistance Program review in alternating years. Results of both reviews are available on the Comptroller's website.

The Property Value Study is conducted by the State Comptroller's Office to estimate the taxable property value in each school district to measure the performance of Appraisal Districts. If the Appraisal District is within a 5% percent margin the State Comptroller will certify the local value to the Commissioner of Education. The findings of the study are used in the school funding formula for state aid. Caldwell CAD has received local value for Caldwell and all other entities.

Caldwell County		2023 CERTIFIED TOTALS		As of Certification	
Property Count: 46,374		CAD - Caldwell Appraisal District Grand Totals		7/21/2023	10:54:05AM
Land		Value			
Homesite:		710,624,332			
Non Homesite:		1,645,796,174			
Ag Market:		3,880,295,301			
Timber Market:		1,626,780	Total Land	(+)	6,238,342,587
Improvement		Value			
Homesite:		1,812,139,692			
Non Homesite:		1,843,494,764	Total Improvements	(+)	3,655,634,456
Non Real		Count	Value		
Personal Property:	2,260		475,503,950		
Mineral Property:	16,865		152,182,546		
Autos:	0		0		
			Total Non Real	(+)	627,686,496
			Market Value	=	10,521,663,539
Ag		Non Exempt	Exempt		
Total Productivity Market:	3,851,491,171		30,430,910		
Ag Use:	23,263,374		145,460	Productivity Loss	(-) 3,828,210,647
Timber Use:	17,150		0	Appraised Value	= 6,693,452,892
Productivity Loss:	3,828,210,647		30,285,450	Homestead Cap	(-) 637,406,893
				Assessed Value	= 6,056,045,999
				Total Exemptions Amount (Breakdown on Next Page)	(-) 494,268,203
				Net Taxable	= 5,561,777,796

The Caldwell CAD serves the following taxing units.

2022 & 2023 Certified Values Comparison

Entity	7/20/2022	7/20/2022	7/20/2023	7/20/2023	Market % Diff	Net Taxable % Diff
	Total Market	Net Taxable	Total Market	Net Taxable		
Caldwell CAD	\$ 7,893,891,665	\$ 4,957,562,355	\$ 10,521,663,539	\$ 5,561,777,796	133.3%	112.2%
Caldwell County	\$ 7,893,696,137	\$ 4,957,366,827	\$ 10,521,644,399	\$ 5,528,589,317	133.3%	111.5%
Farm to Market	\$ 7,888,025,665	\$ 4,951,696,355	\$ 10,514,945,229	\$ 5,509,235,204	133.3%	111.3%
Lockhart I.S.D.	\$ 5,324,223,610	\$ 3,393,926,752	\$ 7,181,163,628	\$ 3,644,351,509	134.9%	107.4%
Luling I.S.D.	\$ 1,212,820,235	\$ 839,428,377	\$ 1,469,344,824	\$ 771,352,766	121.2%	91.9%
Prairie Lea I.S.D.	\$ 382,822,764	\$ 191,195,231	\$ 583,452,229	\$ 232,618,442	152.4%	121.7%
Gonzales I.S.D. ***	\$ 150,444,711	\$ 60,434,876	\$ 189,931,307	\$ 66,581,138	126.2%	110.2%
Hays I.S.D. ***	\$ 134,328,455	\$ 91,087,138	\$ 230,545,392	\$ 136,684,208	171.6%	150.1%
San Marcos I.S.D. ***	\$ 521,773,317	\$ 321,399,322	\$ 648,721,057	\$ 310,041,958	124.3%	96.5%
Waelder I.S.D. ***	\$ 166,486,071	\$ 54,393,372	\$ 214,527,356	\$ 53,750,221	128.9%	98.8%
ACC College ***	\$ 134,467,315	\$ 90,972,516	\$ 230,400,672	\$ 137,259,348	171.3%	150.9%
Lockhart City	\$ 1,753,106,274	\$ 1,452,758,316	\$ 2,051,197,207	\$ 1,464,219,844	117.0%	100.8%
Luling City	\$ 521,321,272	\$ 474,052,611	\$ 582,597,667	\$ 446,823,109	111.8%	94.3%
Martindale City	\$ 136,420,763	\$ 115,828,163	\$ 162,018,353	\$ 120,443,295	118.8%	104.0%
Mustang Ridge City ***	\$ 66,074,530	\$ 41,387,171	\$ 102,283,282	\$ 54,695,813	154.8%	132.2%
Niederwald City ***	\$ 70,371,776	\$ 64,882,298	\$ 101,701,504	\$ 87,764,680	144.5%	135.3%
San Marcos City ***	\$ 67,132,060	\$ 56,848,760	\$ 87,254,120	\$ 50,049,080	130.0%	88.0%
Uhland City ***	\$ 31,417,960	\$ 27,950,818	\$ 44,596,932	\$ 35,490,514	141.9%	127.0%
Gonzales U.G. Water ***	\$ 693,112,151	\$ 258,950,704	\$ 914,591,826	\$ 304,996,417	132.0%	117.8%
Plum Creek Conservation ***	\$ 4,343,206,229	\$ 2,788,539,270	\$ 5,796,101,342	\$ 3,074,478,173	133.5%	110.3%
Plum Creek U.G. ***	\$ 4,323,571,619	\$ 2,768,904,660	\$ 5,795,763,902	\$ 3,093,193,892	134.1%	111.7%
Caldwell-Hays ESD #1 ***	\$ 1,369,328,759	\$ 856,926,620	\$ 2,109,341,786	\$ 1,109,316,762	154.0%	129.5%
Caldwell ESD #2	\$ 503,543,308	\$ 276,459,900	\$ 637,351,332	\$ 319,294,388	126.6%	115.5%
Caldwell ESD #3	\$ 409,153,689	\$ 224,143,012	\$ 516,285,968	\$ 245,474,069	126.2%	109.5%
Caldwell ESD #4	\$ 478,594,374	\$ 242,419,568	\$ 710,613,109	\$ 282,692,698	148.5%	116.6%
Bollinger MUD			\$ 6,506,630	\$ 152,920		
Caldwell County MUD 1	\$ 26,505,024	\$ 316,618	\$ 38,534,565	\$ 1,257,833	145.4%	397.3%
Caldwell County MUD 2	\$ 3,755,000	\$ 1,401,504	\$ 13,565,650	\$ 8,224,270	361.3%	586.8%
Caldwell County MUD 3			\$ 11,980,170	\$ 1,567,308		
Caldwell County MUD 4			\$ 4,411,050	\$ 33,610		
Caldwell Valley MUD 1	\$ 4,779,720	\$ 101,380	\$ 5,962,530	\$ 98,110	124.7%	96.8%
Chisholm MUD 1			\$ 8,052,630	\$ 655,690		
Cotton Center MUD 2	\$ 5,995,960	\$ 149,890	\$ 7,377,260	\$ 149,810	123.0%	99.9%

*** These entities have a portion of their area located inside Caldwell County