

Tax Appeal Data from State Tax Appeal Board
For the Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 Study

Prepared for the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee
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This report summarizes tax appeal data provided by the State Tax Appeal Board for tax appeals from 1987 to 2013. The data covers total appeals, appeals by type of property appealed, and direct appeals by type of tax appealed.

Property Tax Appeals

Table 1 provides the number of property tax appeals filed with county tax appeal boards and the State Tax Appeal Board for the years 1987-2013. The figures do not include centrally assessed property tax appeals or other direct appeals to the State Tax Appeal Board that involve property (such as property tax assistance or tax-exempt property).

Table 1: Appeals Filed with County Tax Appeal Boards and State Tax Appeal Boards, 1987-2013

Calendar Year	Appeals Filed with County Tax Appeal Boards	Appeals Filed with State Tax Appeal Board	Percent of County Appeals Appealed to State Tax Appeal Board
1986*	14,789	3,933	27%
1987	2,291	814	36%
1988	1,799	541	30%
1989	876	204	23%
1990	2,197	392	18%
1991	4,909	458	9%
1992	1,331	139	10%
1993*	4,072	2,537	62%
1994	694	109	16%
1995	173	53	31%
1996*	105	22	21%
1997	571	170	30%

Calendar Year	Appeals Filed with County Tax Appeal Boards	Appeals Filed with State Tax Appeal Board	Percent of County Appeals Appealed to State Tax Appeal Board
1998	156	37	24%
1999	165	51	31%
2000	65	16	25%
2001	58	6	10%
2002	51	17	33%
2003*	341	128	38%
2004	67	18	27%
2005	35	15	43%
2006-2008	46	16	35%
2009*	2,879	159	6%
2010	454	21	5%
2011	397	20	5%
2012	298	44	15%
2013	253	21	8%
Total	39,072	9,941	25%

*Denotes a reappraisal year

Table 2 provides additional detail for property tax appeals that originated with a county tax appeal board and were further appealed to the State Tax Appeal Board. The table summarizes these appeals by the type of property appealed. The following are descriptions of the types of property included in each category:

Land only: suburban tracts, greenbelt, one-acre homesites, trailer court land, grazing land, mining claims, city lots, timber land, grain elevator sites, Conservation Reserve Program land, ranchettes, cabin site leases, landfills, and market productivity of agricultural land

Improvements only: residential, commercial, residential cabins, grain elevators, ranch buildings, and lumber mill improvements

Centrally assessed property: new industrial tax classification, beneficial use of U.S. government lines, rail transportation services, resellers of long distance telephone service, valuation of telephone exchanges, pipeline properties, appraisal of utility companies, appraisal of airline operating properties, appraisal of

natural gas gathering facilities, property classification of telephone companies, wireless company prepaid cards, classification and market value of wireless cell phone properties, and airline properties

Personal property: mobile homes, farm equipment, heavy equipment, manufacturing machinery and equipment, commercial furniture and fixtures, leased and rented equipment, business inventory, arbitrary assessments, abstract records, tanning beds, boats, livestock, trucks, oil and gas field product equipment, hookups for sewer, water, etc., for mobile homes, drilling rig and pipe, grain, laundry equipment, cars, video equipment, bowling lanes, and lumber mill machinery and equipment

Industrial property: rail freight services, grain elevators, lumber mill property, refinery property, sugar factory property, and reclassification of pollution control equipment

Table 2: Appeals of County Tax Appeal Board Decisions to the State Tax Appeal Board by Type of Property, 1987-2013

Type of Property	Number of Appeals	Percent of Total
Residential real property and improvements	5,947	59.8%
Commercial real property and improvements	1,655	16.6%
Land only	1,497	15.1%
Improvements only	618	6.2%
Personal property	177	1.8%
Industrial property	47	0.5%
Total	9,941	

Direct Appeals to the State Tax Appeal Board

Table 3 gives an overview of direct appeals to the State Tax Appeal Board by type of tax appealed. Direct appeals to the State Tax Appeal Board mostly involve nonproperty taxes such as the individual income tax and the corporation license tax. In addition, centrally assessed property taxpayers appeal their assessments directly to the State Tax Appeal Board as do taxpayers with appeals related to property tax assistance and tax-exempt property. The following descriptions may be useful for understanding the data.

Miscellaneous tax: dyed diesel, motor fuels, metal mine and gross proceeds, valuation of refinery property, coal generating property and generating stations, oil and gas production tax, cigarette tax, resource indemnity trust tax, class 13 personal property, sales of prepaid calling cards, performance bond seized, failure to submit withholding tax, contractor’s gross receipts tax

Tax-exempt property: applications for tax exemption as religious, educational, purely public charity,

community services, fraternal organization, hospital, public observatory, public art gallery, cemetery, charitable, government, business inventory, developmentally disabled organization, public housing, privilege use tax, and residential property exemption for surviving spouse of disabled veteran

Table 3: Direct Appeals to the State Tax Appeal Board by Tax Type: 1987-2013

Tax Type	Number of Appeals	Percent of Total
Miscellaneous Tax	214	31.1%
Income Tax	147	21.4%
Corporation License Tax	96	14.0%
Tax Exempt Property	92	13.4%
Centrally Assessed Property	80	11.6%
Property Tax Assistance	56	8.2%
Lodging Facility Use Tax	2	0.3%
Total	687	

Department of Revenue Data

The Department of Revenue will provide additional data on tax appeals by county and year. The data presented above and the Department of Revenue data differ in that the Department of Revenue tracks appeals based on the geocode of the property appealed while the State Tax Appeal Board counts taxpayer applications for appeal. For example, a taxpayer appealing an agricultural valuation may appeal multiple geocodes on a single application for appeal. The State Tax Appeal Board considers this one appeal while the Department of Revenue has an entry for each geocode included in the appeal.

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