

-- Age 65 --

Do I need to sign up for the “Senior Freeze” and other tax breaks?

Yes! Property taxes in the state of Texas are some of the highest in the U.S., but for seniors, these high property tax bills can be an especially big burden. Sometimes called the “senior freeze” property owners 65 and over reach what is known as the homestead tax ceiling. At this point, school district taxes on a resident homestead cannot increase. If the school district property taxes decrease, your bill will be lower. The only way the school district tax will increase is if you make a significant improvement to your property (outside of regular home repairs and maintenance). ***You need to sign up for this tax break. It is not automatic.*** Click [here](#) for the Travis county exemption application, and [here](#) for Williamson county.

I am turning 65. What about Medicare?!

Begin planning for Medicare at least four months before your 65th birthday. If you are eligible at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday, includes the month you turn age 65, and ends three months after that birthday.

It is important to sign up on time! If you choose not to enroll in Medicare Part B and then decide to do so later, your coverage could be delayed and you may have to pay a higher monthly premium for as long as you have Part B. Your monthly premium will go up 10 percent for each 12-month period you were eligible for Part B, but didn't sign up for it, unless you qualify for a "Special Enrollment Period" (SEP).

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period, you have another chance each year to sign up during a “general enrollment period” from January 1 through March 31. Your coverage begins on July 1 of the year you enroll.

4 important facts:

1. Some people get Medicare automatically, and some must sign up. You may have to sign up if you're 65 (or almost 65) and not receiving Social Security.
2. There are certain times of the year when you can sign up or change your coverage.
3. If you sign up for Medicare Part B when you're first eligible, you can avoid a penalty.
4. You can choose how you receive your Medicare coverage.