



**Board of County Commissioners**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*(This is the sixth in a series of releases aimed at highlighting some of the important but not well-known county provided services. This is in conjunction with the "You Are Why We're Here" communication campaign.)*

# Tax Assessor

**WOODBINE, GEORGIA - January 8, 2015** – Did you know there are 30,863 real estate parcels in Camden County? Imagine Camden County divided into 30,863 pieces. Imagine having to keep track of the assessed value (about \$4,000,000,000 for the whole county) of all those parcels. That laborious task falls to the Camden County Tax Assessor's Office. The Tax Assessor's Office falls under the purview of the Board of Assessors, an independent board, whose five members are appointed to four-year terms by the Board of Commissioners.



The Tax Assessor's Office does not send county residents a tax bill. The tax bill comes from the Tax Commissioner's Office (which is a Constitutional Office) based on the millage rate as set by the Board of County Commissioners. The Tax Assessor's Office does just what the name says, they assess the value of real and personal property and produce the Tax Digest as mandated by Georgia law.

The appraisal of all property in the county for the tax digest is done by mass appraisal, which is the systematic and uniform appraisal of multiple properties and allows for statistical review and analysis of the results. Mass appraisals are not individual, site-specific appraisals such as would be done for a bank appraisal. Once the appraised values have been finalized an analysis is done to compare appraisal values to sale prices to ensure compliance with the Department of Audits and the Department of Revenue requirements. The Tax Digest then goes to the Board of Assessors for approval. From there, it goes to the Tax Commissioner and finally to the Board of Commissioners.

*"Leadership that Listens"*

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STEVE L. HOWARD  
County Administrator

JOHN S. MYERS  
County Attorney

WILLIS R. KEENE JR.  
Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK  
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE  
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT  
Commissioner, District 4

TONY SHEPPARD  
Commissioner, District 5

Chief Appraiser Terry Ross, who has more than 20 years experience in appraising and is a Level 4 Appraiser (the highest level offered by the Georgia Department of Revenue), said it is a complex and sometimes daunting yet manageable task. He also said property owners have the right to appeal the appraised value to the Board of Equalization. The appeal can be based on several factors, two of which include the property owner's belief that property is not valued using the same appraisal method as similar properties or that the property may be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

The amount of taxes is not an appealable issue. The actual amount of the tax bill is calculated by using 40% of the appraised value adjusted by frozen homestead values, accounting for other exemptions that have been granted, and by tax millage rates as set.

The Tax Assessor's Office can be reached at 912.576.3241. A tremendous amount of information is also available online at [www.qpublic.net/ga/camden](http://www.qpublic.net/ga/camden). You may also contact Camden County at 912.576.5601 or visit our website at [www.camdencountyga.gov](http://www.camdencountyga.gov).

**About Camden County:** Located in the extreme southeast corner of Georgia, Camden County truly is "Georgia's Coastal Community of Choice." Originally formed in 1777, Camden County is best known for its rich history, natural scenic beauty and Southern hospitality. Our vision is helping to make this the best place to live by preserving and enhancing the history and quality of life, while promoting smart growth and providing an efficient, effective and responsive government.

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