

**KAUFMAN COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
2019  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Introduction**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to better inform the property owners within the boundaries of the Kaufman County Appraisal District (KCAD) and to comply with Standards Rule 6-7 of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), effective January 1, 2008. Standards Rule 6-7 addresses a written summary report of a mass appraisal for ad valorem taxation. Mass appraisal is the process of valuing a group of properties as of a given date, using standard methods, and employing common data, which allows for statistical testing. The intended use of the appraised value is to establish a tax base upon which a property tax will be levied. Each taxing unit within KCAD boundaries will use the appraised values for ad valorem tax purposes only.

The purpose of the appraisals performed by KCAD is to estimate market value on January 1 of each year as defined by the Texas Property Tax Code (Sec. 1.04) on all taxable property within the boundaries of KCAD. Sec 1.04 defines "Market Value" as the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- (A) Exposed for sale on the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- (B) Both the seller and the purchaser know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- (C) Both the seller and the purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other.

**Responsibilities**

The appraisal district is responsible for appraising property in the district for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit that imposes ad valorem taxes on the property in the district. KCAD serves the public and nineteen taxing entities of Kaufman County. Taxing entities in Kaufman County are composed of ten school districts, thirteen cities, thirty-three special districts (MUD, ESD, IMP and water), one community college and the County.

In 2019 the appraisal district preliminary values, submitted to ARB May 1, 2019 totaled \$15,089,113,082 in market value, before exemptions and timber/ag-use valuations, with a parcel count of 74,270. The following are the values by property type:

• Real, single family	\$7,454,985,249
• Real, multi-family	\$223,424,611
• Real vacant lots and small tracts	\$341,239,249
• Real, vacant acreage qualified	\$1,833,010,080
• Real, farm & ranch improvements	\$921,128,037
• Real vacant acreage non-qualified	\$34,162,060
• Real, commercial & industrial	\$1,744,941,798
• Real, oil, gas, and other mineral reserves	\$1,991,288
• Real & Personal, utilities	\$240,573,270
• Tangible Personal, business	\$1,011,582,046
• Tangible Personal, mobile homes	\$92,826,144
• Real Inventory	\$87,910,480
• Special Inventory	\$20,286,560
• Exempt	\$1,081,052,210

## Organizational Structure

The Texas Legislature created the Kaufman County Appraisal District. KCAD appraises property and prepares assessments of real and personal property taxes for seven taxing entities in Kaufman County, Texas. KCAD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. The appraisal district is governed by an eight-member board of directors appointed by the taxing entities in the county. The board appoints the chief appraiser who serves at the pleasure of the board. The board also approves the budget and sets policy. The chief appraiser is the chief administrator of the appraisal district and may employ and compensate professional, clerical, and other personnel as provided by the budget. The chief appraiser may delegate authority to his employees. KCAD currently has budgeted twenty full-time employees besides the chief appraiser.

All appraisers are required to be registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The TDLR registration requires that each appraiser must successfully complete a three-year educational program and pass a required number of course hours within a specified time. Additionally, all appraisers must pass review exams at levels three and four of the certification program. After successfully completing the required curriculum and approval of a demonstration appraisal, an appraiser is awarded the designation of Registered Professional Appraiser (RPA). There is also a requirement of at least seventy-five hours of continuing education units every five years in order to re-certify the RPA designation. KCAD currently has ten full RPA's, and one level III RPA. The KCAD appraisal staff stays abreast of current trends affecting property through review of published materials, attendance at conferences, course work and continuing education.

Appraisers are responsible for the discovery, listing, and appraisal of all types of property. Capitol Appraisal Group Inc has been doing the appraisal of minerals, utilities, industrial and some personal property for several years. The Chief Appraiser and staff continually strive to improve the quality and performance of all appraisals. The mission of the appraisal district is to appraise all property in the district at market value equally and uniformly, and to communicate that value to each taxpayer and taxing jurisdiction.

## Assumptions and limiting Conditions

1. Title to the property is assumed to be good and marketable and the legal description correct.
2. No responsibility for legal matters is assumed. All existing liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances have been disregarded and the property is appraised as though free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management.
3. The appraiser developing these appraisals is not required to give testimony or attendance in court by reason of the appraisals, unless directed by, employed by, and provided legal counsel by the Kaufman County Appraisal District.
4. All properties are appraised in fee simple interest in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Section 25.06. (Jurisdictional exception to Standards Rule 6-4 © and 6-5 © of USPAP)
5. All sketches in the appraisal records are intended to be visual aids with rounded measurements and should not be construed as surveys or engineering reports, etc.

6. All information in the appraisal records has been obtained by members of the appraisal district's staff or other reliable sources.
7. The appraisal staff inspects, as permitted, by observation, the land and the improvements thereon; however, it is not possible to personally observe conditions beneath the soil or hidden structural components within the improvements. Therefore, no representations are made as to these matters, unless specifically considered in an individual appraisal.
8. All interior inspections are performed at the property owner's request. All other inspections performed are external and assume the quality, condition and desirability of the interior are approximately equal to that of the exterior, unless otherwise known.
9. Agricultural land is appraised at market value using a market data model based on market sales information. Subsurface rights (mineral and oil) are not considered in making these appraisals.

#### Single-Family Residences

Single-family residences consist of all land and real property improvements, which by the nature of their design and/or construction are suitable for single-family use only. This includes manufactured homes, which are classified as real property when the owner of the land is also the owner of the manufactured home and personal property when the owner of the manufactured home does not own the land.

The appraisals completed by KCAD for single-family residences are subject to the following assumptions and limiting conditions:

1. The Kaufman County Appraisal District's staff has physically inspected single-family residences and commercial properties in the Kaufman, Kemp and Scurry Rosser school districts. Interior inspections have not been done on a majority of the properties in the cities because (1) most residential owners are not at their residence during regular business hours, (2) permission to inspect is not always granted, (3) the safety of the appraiser may be in question, and (4) respect for privacy rights of the property owner should be exercised.
2. The opinion of value for each single-family property applies to land and improvement only. The value of personal property of an owner has not been included with the value of the real estate.
3. Residential real property inventory as defined by the Texas Property Tax Code in Section 23.12 shall be considered as inventory and the market value shall be the price for which it would sell as a unit to a purchaser who would continue the business. (Jurisdictional Exception to Standards Rule 6-4 (b) of USPAP).

### **Data Collection and Validation**

Two basic types of data are collected: data that is specific to each property and data that is indicative of a particular class of property that has been predefined by KCAD.

Property-specific data is collected as part of the inspection process, building permits and through submission by the property owner. As part of the inspection process, the improvements are measured and classified. The appraiser also estimates the effective age (condition) of the improvements. Any additional or unusual features are also noted at the time of the inspection. Data on individual properties are maintained on the appraisal card for that property. Data on individual properties is verified through previously existing records, published records, building permits, analysis of comparable properties and through submission by the property owner. Appraisal data is available for review at the appraisal district office.

Data pertaining to a class of properties is grouped together according to the differing quality levels, and then used to develop valuation models for each property class. Such data is collected in a variety of ways. Cost information is obtained from nationally recognized sources and from data submitted by owners.

Market sales information is collected through a variety of sources including surveys of buyers and sellers, Multiple Listing Service, and deed records.

### **Valuation Approach and Analysis of Real Property**

Improvements are appraised using replacement cost new less depreciation models. Replacement costs are estimated from published sources, other publicly available information, and comparable properties. For 2019, the district updated replacement cost schedules for residential and commercial properties. Mobile home schedules were updated in PACS matrix system. Depreciation is calculated on the age/life method using typical economic lives and depreciation rates based on public sources, market evidence, and the experience of knowledgeable appraisers. Adjustments for functional and economic obsolescence may be made if diminished utility and comparable sales are found to justify such. A comparable sales model is used when appropriate sales information is available. The model is calibrated for site values, improvement quality, living area, condition and extra features.

Land values are based on selling prices for the appropriate highest and best use of the site, and as though it was vacant. Highest and best use analysis of the improvements is based on the likelihood of the continued use of the improvements in their current and/or intended use and is essential to an accurate appraisal. Identification of a highest and best use different from the current or intended use has a significant effect on the cost and market data models and is always a statement of opinion, not a statement of fact.

## **Business Personal Property 2019 Summary Report**

### **Overview**

Business personal property is the tangible personal property owned by a business or by an individual for the purpose of producing income. Other tangible personal property is exempt according to Sec. 11.14 (a) of the Texas Property Tax Code.

### **Data Collection and Validation**

Data on new and existing businesses is collected through personal inspection, newspaper articles, government reports, comparisons to like businesses, renditions, and other confidential information supplied by the owner. Due to the multitude of personal property types, there is no standard data collection form or manual.

### **Valuation Approach and Analysis**

Personal property as defined by the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice is “identifiable, portable and tangible objects which are considered by the general public to be ‘personal’, e.g. furnishings, artwork, antiques, gems and jewelry, collectibles, machinery and equipment: all property that is not classified as real estate”. The Texas Property Tax Code Section 1.04(5) defines tangible personal property as “personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or otherwise perceived by the senses but does not include a document or other perceptible object that constitutes evidence of a valuable interest, claim, or right and has negligible or no intrinsic value.” The Texas Property Tax Code Section 1.04(4) defines personal property as “property that is not real property”.

The purpose of the appraisals of business personal property is to estimate market value on January 1 of each year. A separate definition of market value for inventory is found in the Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 21.12(a): “the market value of an inventory is the price for which it would sell as a unit to a purchaser who would continue the business”.

Personal property is appraised using original cost less depreciation models. Depreciation is calculated on the age/life method using typical economic lives and depreciation rates based on published sources, market evidence, and the experience of knowledgeable appraisers. Adjustments for functional and economic obsolescence may be made if utilization for the subject property justifies such. In the case of personal property types, such as licensed vehicles and aircraft, market data from published pricing guides is used to construct a market value estimate. In other cases, estimates are based on quality and density information available through published sources or through private sources. These estimates are typically cost based.

The District’s adopted re-appraisal plan for 2019 stated that the properties in the following areas would be inspected: Kaufman ISD, Kemp ISD, and Scurry Rosser ISD properties. The remaining school districts were to have maintenance work done starting January 2019. Field work began in mid-October and was finished in March 2019. Maintenance and rechecks began in January 2019. Maintenance was completed early April 2019. The appraisers began using iPads for field work. The start of work was delayed because of training issues and software issues with the iPads but once they were up and running field work was completed on time.

Renditions were sent to Variverge on 1/14 and mailed on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The end-of-year process ran and new applications were mailed 1/30/19. The chief appraiser required ag/timber applications were mailed on 1/31. Chief appraiser required homestead applications were sent by certified mail throughout the year. Also in January the following applications and surveys were mailed: income surveys, wildlife annual report forms, special inventory declaration forms, real property inventory forms and annual application forms.

Properties were inspected and new photographs taken where warranted. Buildings were measured and changed to newly created classes where required. Residential and commercial cost schedules were updated using Marshall and Swift cost guide and adjustments were made for this area.

Property sales information is gathered year-round by sending letters to buyers and sellers and collecting MLS sales data. Sales information is used to run ratio studies of improved property after building cost schedules were updated. Land schedules were updated with the most recent land sales gathered via sales letters for every market area of the County not just the re-inspected properties. If there were no sales for a market area those land values did not change. However building costs are adjusted for all areas.

Notices were mailed April 16<sup>th</sup> for HB3630 and E-file eligible single-family residences. All other real property notices were mailed April 20<sup>th</sup>. Mineral notices were mailed on May 6<sup>th</sup> and personal property notices May 6<sup>th</sup>. Appraisal records were submitted to the appraisal review board on May 1<sup>st</sup> and hearings will begin on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Local adjustments were made to all residential classes after updating to current building cost schedules. The commercial appraiser has begun converting properties to the newly acquired Marshall Swift module built into the PACS CAMA system.


Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

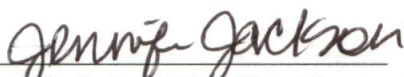
- The statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.
- The reported analysis, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions, and is the appraisal staff's personal, unbiased professional analyses, opinions and conclusions.
- I have no present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of this report, and I have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.
- My compensation is not contingent on the reporting of a predetermined value, or direction in value, that favors the cause of the client, the amount of the value estimate, the attainment of a stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event.
- My analysis, opinions and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
- The KCAD appraisal staff makes personal inspections of the property that is the subject of this report.



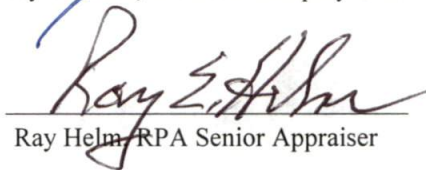
Sarah Curtis RTA RPA CTA CCA AAS  
Chief Appraiser



Coy Johnson, RPA CCA Deputy Chief Appraiser



Jennifer Jackson RPA CCA, Director of Residential  
Appraisal



Ray Helm, RPA Senior Appraiser



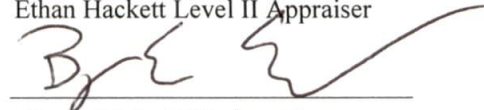
Robert Castaneda, RPA Commercial Appraiser



Ethan Hackett Level II Appraiser



Robert Fletcher, RPA Appraiser



Bryan Earls, RPA Appraiser



Christian Guerrero, Level III



Jennifer Ison RPA, Appraiser