

# GENE JOHNSON

CLERK OF TELFAIR SUPERIOR COURT

Telfair County Courthouse ■ 19 East Oak Street, Suite C ■ McRae, Georgia 31055



## TELF AIR COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

To the Citizens of Telfair County:

During the last legislative session, Senate Bill 346 was passed and signed into law by the Governor on May 13, 2010 with an effective date of January 1, 2011. This new law is a very significant piece of legislation that consists of thirty-nine pages of changes focusing on ad valorem taxes, the Board of Assessors and the Board of Equalization. The complete bill can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009>

One important section of this bill changed the oversight responsibilities for the Board of Equalization (BOE). The bill vests these duties with the Clerk of Superior Court. This was done to place a neutral third party, the clerk, over the operation of this department in an effort to avoid all appearances of bias or impropriety. I take these responsibilities very seriously.

It is important to understand that oversight responsibilities mean that I am responsible for the process NOT the decision that is rendered by the Board of Equalization. My office will always stand in the middle, taking no position on who is right and who is wrong on the value of property. But, my office will always take a strong position to insure the process is fair to all and that every person is heard and treated with respect and dignity.

In an effort to provide the level of service that each citizen deserves, I have appointed Deputy Clerk, Dawn Selph, to be my primary contact with the daily operations of the BOE. Ms. Selph brings many years of customer service in the court environment and shares my belief that disagreements should be limited to the issues of value and not to the fairness of the process.

The members of the Board of Equalization are appointed by the Grand Jury. They are citizens, such as you and me, but they are not employees of Telfair County. Their appointment is not by a taxing department, nor, is their oversight by a taxing authority. Each board member takes an oath of office to faithfully and impartially discharge his or her duties as identified in the Georgia Code. Members of the board are required to have 40 hours of training when first appointed and eight hours of continuing education each subsequent year.

In an effort to better serve you, I am providing you with my email address [gene.johnson@gsccca.org](mailto:gene.johnson@gsccca.org) to be used to make comments you wish, good or bad. The mailing address, fax number and my phone number is listed on this letter head.

Sincerely,

  
Gene Johnson

Clerk of Superior Court