

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

Mary A. Bailey. v. McIntosh County, Georgia

If you applied for and received the local homestead exemption provided for in House Bills (“HB”) 382 and 450 (the “Homestead Exemption”) for tax years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 and paid property taxes to McIntosh County, Georgia, you may be a Class Member.

Please read this Notice carefully, as it affects your legal rights. You can also visit:

[INSERT URL OF WEBPAGE ON COUNTY SITE] (the “Settlement Webpage”)

Or Call Class Counsel at:

(912) 638-5200

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT	
Do Nothing	After the Settlement has been approved by the Court, if you still own the property for which the refund is determined to be owed, you will not be required to do anything to receive your refund. After the Settlement has been approved by the Court, you will receive your refund as explained in this Notice.
Submit a Claim	If you no longer own the property for which the refund is determined to be owed, after the Settlement has been approved by the Court, you will receive a Claim Form. Follow the instructions on the Claim Form and in this Notice to submit the Claim Form.
Object	Write to the Court and counsel about the fairness of the Settlement.
Go to the Hearing	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement after you have submitted a written objection.

- **These rights and options – and the deadlines and instructions for exercising them – are explained in this Notice.**
- The Court in charge of these cases still has to decide whether to grant final approval of this Settlement. No refund will be made until after the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, after all appeals, if any, are resolved and after the individual refund determination for each class member is made.

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Basic Information

1. What is the purpose of this Notice?

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of (a) the existence of a class action lawsuit; and (b) the [Proposed] Consent Judgment on Aggregate Refund and Order (the “[Proposed] Consent Judgment”) which settles the lawsuit (the “Settlement”). The Court authorized this Notice because you have a right to know about the [Proposed] Consent Judgment which settles this class action lawsuit before the Court decides whether to give “final approval” to the Settlement. This Notice explains the nature of the lawsuit that is subject of the Settlement and your legal rights and options.

The class action lawsuit is pending in the Superior Court of McIntosh County, Georgia, known as *Mary A. Bailey v. McIntosh County, Georgia* (the “Lawsuit”). Judge Glen A. Cheny, Superior Court Judge, McIntosh County is presiding over this Lawsuit.

2. What is this Lawsuit about?

This Lawsuit alleges that McIntosh County (herein “McIntosh County” or “Defendant”) assessed and collected ad valorem taxes based on the incorrect application of the Homestead Exemption. The Homestead Exemption states that the “Base Year” is “the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which the exemption under [the Homestead Exemption] is first granted to the most recent owner of such homestead.” In short, the Homestead Exemption provides for exemption from ad valorem taxes for county and school purposes on the increase in value of property over the Base Year value.

The Lawsuit alleges that the Base Year should be the tax year “immediately preceding” the tax year that the Homestead Exemption was granted to the most recent owner. However, the McIntosh County Tax Commissioner treated the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted as the Base Year rather than the immediately preceding year.

The language of the Homestead Exemption – including the definition “Base Year” – is the exact same language as the Glynn County, Georgia homestead exemption for county and school taxes. The Georgia Court of Appeals interpreted the term “Base Year” in the Glynn County homestead exemption and held that “[b]ased on the plain language of the [exemption], the base year is merely the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which the applicant was the owner of the property on January 1 – in other words, the year prior to the year in which the homestead exemption was granted.” Coleman, et al. v. Glynn County, Georgia, et al., 344 Ga. App. 545, 549, 809 S.E.2d 383, 387 (2018).

Named Plaintiff filed this Lawsuit on behalf of herself and all taxpayers similarly situated who applied for and received the Homestead Exemption seeking refunds for taxes paid for 2016 through 2020.

3. Why is this Lawsuit a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called class representatives or representative plaintiffs sue on behalf of all people who have similar claims. Together, all of these people are called a class and the individuals are called class members. One court resolves the issues for all class members.

4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not decided in favor of Named Plaintiff or McIntosh County. Instead, both sides have agreed to a Settlement. By agreeing to the Settlement, the Parties avoid the costs and uncertainty of a trial and related appeals and Class Members received the benefits described in this Notice. The “Class Representative” appointed to represent the Class and the attorneys for the Class (“Class Counsel”, see Question No. 15) think that the Settlement is best for all Class Members.

Who is in the Settlement?

5. Am I part of the Class?

You are a member of the Class if you are or were a McIntosh County property owner receiving the Homestead Exemption in the calculation of your tax bills for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 and for whom McIntosh County used the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted as the base year rather than the immediately preceding year in calculating the Homestead Exemption amount for property tax bills for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 and for whom the value frozen in the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted is greater than the value in the immediately preceding year.

6. What if I am still not sure if I am included in the Class?

After the Administrators calculate the individual refunds for the Class Members, the Class Members’ names who are determined to be entitled to refunds along with the refund each will receive will be posted on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County’s website as described in Question No. 25. You can visit the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County’s website (***FILL IN URL OF WEBPAGE***) where you can search for your name and/or property for which you believe you may be entitled to a refund.

You can also call Class Counsel at (912) 638-5200 to get help.

The Proposed Settlement

7. What are the Settlement Benefits?

If the Settlement is approved by the Court at or after the Fairness Hearing described in Question No. 20, McIntosh County has agreed to create an Aggregate Refund Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (the “Aggregate Refund Fund”).

If the Court finally approves this Settlement and if you are entitled to a refund for taxes paid for any of the tax years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 you will receive a refund calculated as explained in Question No. 11.

The money in the Aggregate Refund Fund will only be distributed if the Court finally approves this Settlement.

8. How do I receive my refund?

Following the Final Approval of the [Proposed] Consent Judgment settling this Lawsuit (described in Question No. 20), the Administrators will calculate the individual refund amounts. After the Administrators calculate the individual refunds for the Class Members, the Class Members' names along with the refund each will receive will be posted on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's website along with information about how a Class Member can object to individual refund amounts. As deemed appropriate by the Court appointed Administrators, updates as to timing of the individual Class Member refund calculation and payment will also be posted on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's website.

The Administrators will divide the Class Members into the following categories for purposes of distributing the refunds:

Category 1 Class Members: Class Members reside at the same location for which a refund is determined to be owed.

Category 2 Class Members: Class Members who no longer live at the location for which a refund is determined to be owed.

If you are a Category 1 Class Member the refund will be mailed without the need for you to take any action. (See Question No. 14 for more information). If you are a Category 2 Class Member you will be sent a Claim Form at what is believed to be your current mailing address or you can obtain the Claim Form from the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's Website. If you receive a Claim Form or are listed as a Category 2 Class Member, you will need to follow the directions on the Claim Form, certifying that you are the same taxpayer for which the refund has been calculated. You will have sixty (60) days to return the Claim Form. (See Question No. 14 for more information).

9. What if I receive a Claim Form and do not follow the instructions or do not timely return the form?

Only Category 2 Class Members (Class Members who no longer live at the location for which the refund is determined to be owed) are required to submit Claim Forms. If you fail to follow the instructions on the Claim Form and do not submit it on or before the date provided on the Claim Form you will not receive your refund. Sending in a Claim Form late will be the same as failing to send in the required Claim Form.

10. What if I am not listed on the Settlement Webpage as a Class Member?

As explained in Question No. 8, following the Final Approval of the [Proposed] Consent Judgment settling this lawsuit (described in Question No. 20), the Administrators will calculate the individual refund amounts and post the Class Members and the refunds each will receive on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County’s website. There will be a Claim Form on that webpage for any taxpayer not identified as a Class Member by the Administrators to download, complete and submit according to the directions provided. The Administrators will review the claim and notify the taxpayer of their findings. The taxpayer will have fifteen (15) days to object to the Administrators’ findings. Objections will be heard by a Special Master. The Special Master’s findings will be final and binding.

11. How are the refunds calculated?

Following Final Approval of the Consent Judgment, the Administrators are directed to identify the Class and Class Members and confirm and calculate the individual refund amounts. “Class” means McIntosh County property owners receiving the Homestead Exemption in the calculation of their tax bills in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 for whom Defendant used the Incorrect Base Year”) rather than the Correct Base Year in calculating the exemption amount under the Homestead Exemption for property tax bills in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and for whom the value frozen in the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted is greater than the value in the immediately preceding year. “Class Member” or “Class Members” means a member or members of the Class. The Administrators will identify the Class Members who are entitled to refunds as follows:

The Administrators shall be given full access to the records of and full cooperation by Defendant’s departments including, but not limited to, Information Technology, the BOA’s Office and Tax Commissioner’s Office in order to confirm the identity of Class Members.

The Administrators will remove as ineligible for any refund all taxpayers for whom the Correct base year or base value was used. To accomplish this the Administrators will:

1. Determine what should be the Base Year by subtracting one (1) year from the effective date of the Exemption (“Effective Date”¹) which reflects the Correct Base Year under the Court of Appeals’ decision in Coleman, et al., 344 Ga. App. 545 (i.e., the year immediately preceding the year in which the Exemption was first granted);
2. Remove taxpayers where the County used the Correct Base Year; and
3. Remove taxpayers where the County used the Incorrect Base Year but used the correct frozen amount in calculating the taxes.

¹ The “Effective Date” is the date that the application was actually filed.

For those taxpayers that remain, the County may have used an incorrect base value to calculate the Exemption. From this remaining group of taxpayers, the Administrators will determine if there are any other reasons that would preclude a taxpayer from receiving a refund or reasons that would reduce the amount of the refund.

To accomplish this, the Administrators will:

1. Remove those taxpayers where the total value of the property in the year at issue is less than or equal to the base value as determined by the Court of Appeals in Coleman, et al, 344 Ga. App. 545;
2. Remove those taxpayers where the current year base value used by the County is less than or equal to the base value determined by the Court of Appeals in Coleman, et al, 344 Ga. App. 545; and
3. Remove those taxpayers where the original base value used by the County is less than or equal to the base value as determined by the Court of Appeals in Coleman, et al, 344 Ga. App. 545.

For the remaining taxpayers, the Administrators will calculate an individual Class Member refund amounts. To accomplish this, the Administrators will:

1. Take the lesser of the applicable refund year value, the current year frozen value and the frozen value established in the year the exemption was granted and subtract the valuation in the year prior to the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted (the Base Year valuation under the Court of Appeals Ruling in Coleman, et al, 344 Ga. App. 545) and multiply times the county and school millage rate.

2. Where the current year frozen value exceeds the frozen value established in the year the exemption was granted, the Administrators shall determine the proper adjusted base value by subtracting the frozen value in the year the exemption was originally granted from the current year frozen value, then adding the result to the Correct Base Year valuation in order to account for additions and improvements to the homestead after year the Base Year and multiply times the county and school millage rate.

3. For all taxpayers receiving additional exemptions that reduce the amount of the refund owed, the Administrators will make adjustments to the refund calculation for those taxpayers receiving other exemptions that reduce the overpayment of taxes as a result of use of the Incorrect Base Year.

4. For all taxpayers where there was construction between the year immediately preceding the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted and the year used by the County as the base year, the Administrators will determine the proper frozen value in the year immediately preceding the year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted (Base Year value under the Court Appeals ruling in Coleman, et al, 344 Ga. App. 545), add the value of any improvements added to the property between the based year under the Court of Appeals Coleman,

et al, 344 Ga. App. 545 ruling and the base year used by the County and subtract this amount from the frozen value used by the County and multiply times the county and school millage rate.

5. The Administrator will calculate interest on the calculated refund from the date of overpayment through the date of final approval of this [Proposed] Consent Judgment and add this amount to the calculated refund for each Class Member.

6. The resulting calculation shall be the refund owed to each Class Member (the “Calculated Refund”).

7. The process described above will produce a refund amount for each Class Member for a single year and will be repeated for each applicable refund year.

8. The Administrators will only use the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which the Homestead Exemption was first granted to the most recent owner of such homestead as the base year in calculating refunds.

9. The amount of refunds already paid to any Class Member shall be deducted from the Calculated Refund.

12. How much will my refund be?

If you are entitled to a refund, your refund will be calculated as explained in Question No. 11. At this time, it is not known how much each individual refund will be. The Administrators will calculate the individual refund amounts after the Final Approval Hearing (see Question No. 20) and after the Court finally approves the Settlement. See Question No. 14 regarding timing of payment.

13. What am I giving up as part of the Settlement?

If the Settlement is finally approved by the Court after the Final Approval Hearing, you will give up your right to sue McIntosh County and other persons (“Releasees”) as to all claims arising out of any and all claims for overpayment of taxes or tax refunds for the use of the year in which the Exemption was first granted as the Base Year rather than the immediately preceding year in the calculation of property tax payments from 2016 through 2020, whether in law or in equity (the “Released Claims”).

The full text of the of the Release is set forth in Question No. 26. Additionally, a copy of the [Proposed] Consent Judgment can be found on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County’s website. *You should carefully read the Release and if you have any questions about the release you may contact Class Counsel at (912) 638-5200.*

14. When will I get paid?

On May 6, 2022, the Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, the Administrators will begin to verify the individual Class Members who are entitled to refunds and determine the individual amount of the refund to be paid to each Class Member.

The Administrators will endeavor to complete the individual Settlement Class Member refund calculations within 180 days of the entry of the Final Order after the Final Approval Hearing described in Question No. 20.

The Aggregate Refund Fund shall be paid to a Qualified Settlement Fund under Section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code to be identified and established prior to and to be specified in the Final Order (the “Bailey QSF”) to carry out the payment of refunds to individual Class Members. The Final Order will appoint an administrator of the Bailey QSF (the “Bailey QSF Administrator”).

Within thirty (30) days of the later of the expiration of the period for objecting to individual refund amounts or a final ruling by the Special Master on any individual refund calculation, the Administrators shall identify to the Bailey QSF Administrator the amount of refund due each Qualified Class Member (as that term is defined in the [Proposed] Consent Judgment) and the address to which the refund is to be mailed. The Bailey QSF Administrator shall issue refund checks to each Qualified Class Member from available funds in the Aggregate Refund Fund within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice from the Administrators.

Please note that there is often a delay after a Settlement like this is approved. For example, there may be appeals of the Court’s Order approving the Settlement. The relief to the Class Members provided for by this Settlement may not be implemented until appeals are finished and the Court’s Order finally approving this Settlement is upheld. Because of this there could be a delay in payment of the individual refund amounts as provided for in the Settlement.

Please be patient. Updates as deemed necessary will be posted on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County’s website.

The Lawyers Representing You

15. Do I have a lawyer in this Lawsuit?

Yes. The Court decided that the law firm of Roberts Tate, LLC is qualified to serve as Class Counsel and to represent you and all Class Members.

16. Should I get my own lawyer?

You do not need to hire your own lawyer because Class Counsel is working on your behalf. But if you want your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own cost.

17. How will the lawyers get paid and will there be incentive payments?

Class Counsel has not received any fees for the lawyer and professional time it has devoted to this Lawsuit, nor have they received any reimbursement for any of the out of pocket expenses incurred. For work done through the final approval of this Settlement, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of attorneys' fees not to exceed 40% of the Aggregate Refund Fund plus documented out of pocket expenses incurred from the Aggregate Refund Fund (the "Fee Petition"). McIntosh County takes no position on the Fee Petition, will not oppose the Fee Petition and intends to defer such decision to the judgment and discretion of the Court.

In addition, Class Counsel will ask the Court to award to the Named Plaintiff, Mary A. Bailey, a class service payment from the Aggregate Refund Fund in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the Class (the "Class Service Petition"). Named Plaintiff was prepared to appear and testify at trial on behalf of the Class. McIntosh County takes no position on the Class Service Petition, will not oppose the Class Service Petition and intends to defer such decision to the judgment and discretion of the Court.

The amounts to be awarded as attorney's fees, expenses and Named Plaintiff's service award must be approved by the Court. Class Counsel will file the Fee Petition and the Class Service Petition at least twenty (20) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. You can object to the Fee Petition and the Class Service Petition in compliance with the instruction in Question No. 18.

A copy of the Fee Petition and the Class Service Petition will be posted on the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's website the same day that it is filed with the Court.

Supporting or Objecting to the Settlement

18. How do I tell the Court that I like or do not like the Settlement?

If you are a Class Member, you can tell the Court that you like the Settlement or you can tell the Court that you do not agree with the Settlement or some part of the Settlement. You can object to the entire Settlement or any part of the Settlement. You can give reasons why you do not think that the Court should approve the Settlement. You can also object to the Fee Petition or the Class Service Petition. You can give reasons for the objection and why you think the Court should not approve the Fee Petition or the Class Service Petition.

In order for the Court to consider your written comments or objections, all objections to the [Proposed] Consent Judgement settling this Lawsuit or to the Fee Petition or the Class Service Petition must be mailed to the Clerk of Court, Plaintiff's Counsel and Defendant's Counsel. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must be postmarked on or before April 27, 2022 (ten (10) days prior to the Final Hearing) and sent to the Court, Class Counsel and Counsel for Defendant at the following addresses:

Court	Clerk of the Superior Court of McIntosh County 310 North Way Darien, GA 31305
Class Counsel	James L. Roberts, IV, Esquire Roberts Tate, LLC Post Office Box 21828 St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522
Counsel for Defendant	G. Todd Carter, Esq Brown, Readdick, Bumgartner, Carter, Strickland & Watkins, LLP 5 Glynn Avenue Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Additionally, for an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must also set forth:

- a. The name of the Lawsuit;
- b. Your full name, address and telephone number;
- c. An explanation of the basis upon which you claim to be a Class Member;
- d. All grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to you or your counsel;
- e. The number of times the you have objected to a class action settlement within the five (5) years preceding the date on which you file the objection, the caption of each case in which you have made such objection, and a copy of any orders or opinions to or ruling upon your prior such objections that were issued by any court in each listed case;
- f. The identity of all counsel who represented you, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to any compensation for any reason related to the objection to the Consent Judgment settling this Lawsuit or to Fee Petition and Class Service Petition;
- g. The number of times your counsel and/or counsel’s law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the last five (5) years preceding the date you file the objection, the caption of each case in which the counsel or the firm has made such objection, and a copy of any order or opinions related to or ruling upon counsel or the firm’s prior such objections that were issued by any court in each listed case;
- h. Any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting – whether written or verbal – between you or your counsel and any other person or entity;
- i. The identity of all counsel representing you who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;

- j. A list of all persons which will be called to testify at the Final Approval Hearing in support of the objection;
- k. A statement confirming whether you intend to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing; and
- l. Your signature (your attorney's signature is not sufficient).

The filing of an objection may allow Class Counsel or Counsel for McIntosh County to notice the objecting party to take his or her deposition at an agreed upon location before the Final Approval Hearing, and to seek any documentary evidence or other tangible things that are relevant to the objection. Failure of the objector to comply with the discovery requests may result in the Court striking the objector's objection and otherwise denying that person the opportunity to make an objection or be further heard. The Court reserves the right to tax the costs of any such discovery to the objector or the objector's counsel should the Court determine that the objection is frivolous or is made for an improper purpose.

Any Class Member who fails to object in the manner set forth above will be deemed to have forever waived his or her objections.

19. Can I call the Court or the Judge's office about my objections?

No. If you have questions, you may visit the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's website (*INSERT URL OF WEBPAGE*) for more information about the settlement. You may also call Class Counsel.

20. When and where will the Court decide to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at 10:00 a.m. on May 6, 2022 at the McIntosh County Courthouse. After the Final Approval Hearing the Court will decide whether to finally certify the Settlement Class and whether to approve the Settlement. The Court may also decide how much to pay Class Counsel and whether to award a class service payment to Named Plaintiff. Additionally, if no objections are filed, the Court may elect to conduct the hearing telephonically or virtually without further notice to the Class. We do not know how long it will take the Court to make its decision.

Important! The time and date of the Final Approval Hearing may change without additional mailed or published notice.

21. Why is there a hearing?

At the Final Approval Hearing the Court will consider whether to finally certify the Settlement Class and whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate. If there are objections that were properly submitted (see Question No. 18) the Court will consider them. At its discretion, the Court may listen to people who have properly filed objections (see Question No. 18) and have asked to speak at the hearing.

22. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will present the [Proposed] Consent Judgment settling this Lawsuit to the Court. You or your own lawyer are welcome to attend at your expense, but you are not required to do so. If you make an objection, you do not have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you mailed or otherwise submitted your written objection according to the instructions (including the deadlines) in Question No. 18, including all of the information required, the Court will consider it.

23. May I speak at the hearing?

You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Final Approval Hearing. To do so, you must mail or otherwise submit an objection according to the instructions (including the deadlines) in Question No. 18. The Court, in its discretion, may determine which, if any, of the Class Members who properly submitted an objection and requested to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing will be entitled to appear and be heard.

If you wish to present evidence at the Final Approval Hearing you must identify any witnesses you may call to testify and any exhibits you intend to introduce as evidence at the Final Approval Hearing in your written objection (see Question No. 18).

24. Can I exclude myself from the Settlement?

No. You do not have the right to exclude yourself from the Settlement, but you do have the right to object to the Settlement in writing (see Question No. 18).

Getting More Information about the Settlement

25. How do I get more information?

Visit the Settlement Webpage on McIntosh County's website at ***FILL IN URL OF WEBPAGE*** where you can find claim forms, information on the Lawsuit and the Settlement, and documents such as the Complaint filed by Plaintiff and the [Proposed] Consent Judgment.

You may also call Class Counsel at (912) 638-5200 or write Class Counsel at:

James L. Roberts, IV, Esquire
ROBERTS TATE, LLC
Post Office Box 21828
St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE TO THE JUDGE CONCERNING THIS LAWSUIT OR THE SETTLEMENT. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE CLERK OF COURT. EXCEPT FOR SUBMITTING OBJECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED IN QUESTION NO. 18, PLEASE DO NOT WRITE TO THE CLERK OF COURT CONCERNING THIS LAWSUIT OR THE SETTLEMENT.

Full Text of the Settlement

26. What is the full text of the Release for the Settlement?

A. Released Claims

Plaintiff and Class Members agree to release and forever discharge, and by this Agreement do, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, release and forever discharge Defendant, its past, present and future parent and affiliate corporations, offices and departments, and their respective past, present and future divisions, subsidiaries, affiliates and related governmental entities and their successors, assigns, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives, personally and as directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents, or representatives (collectively, the “Releasees”), of and from all manner of action and actions, causes and causes of action, sums of money, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, damages (including, but not limited to, attorneys fees), claims and demands that were or could have been asserted in the Lawsuit related to or arising out of any and all claims for overpayment of taxes or tax refunds for the use of the year in which the Exemption under H.B. 382 and H.B. 450 was first granted as the Base Year rather than the immediately preceding year in the calculation of property tax payments from 2016 through 2020, whether in law or in equity, which he/she ever had, may have had, now has or which his/her heirs, executors or administrators hereinafter can, shall or may have as a result of any act or omission by the Releasees, whether known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, suspected or unsuspected (the “Released Claims”). Release Claims shall not include claims for tax refunds for any reason other than the use of the Incorrect Base Year.

B. Scope of Releases

The Parties acknowledge that (a) they may subsequently discover facts in addition to, or different from, those that they now know or believe to be true with respect to the Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Released Claims, or that could have been asserted with respect to the Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Released Claims; and (b) they may have sustained or may yet sustain damages, costs, or expenses that are presently unknown and that relate to the Plaintiff’s and Qualified Class Members’ Released Claims. The Parties acknowledge, however, that they have negotiated, agreed upon and entered into this Agreement with full knowledge of these possibilities, and agree that this Agreement shall not be affected in any manner whatsoever if any of these possibilities occur.

C. Effect of Failure to Grant Final Approval

In the event that the Court fails to enter an Order granting Final Approval to this [Proposed] Consent Judgment, the Lawsuit shall resume, this [Proposed] Consent Judgment and any Order granted pursuant to this [Proposed] Consent Judgment, including but not limited to the Preliminary Approval Order shall have no res judicata or collateral estoppel effect and shall be of no force or effect, and the Parties’ rights and defenses shall be restored without prejudice as if this [Amended Proposed] Consent Judgment had never been entered into unless either: (1) Plaintiff and Defendant

agree in writing to a modification of the [Proposed] Consent Judgment and obtain approval of the [Proposed] Consent Judgment with such agreed to modification, or (2) Plaintiff and Defendant successfully obtain reversal of the decision denying entry of the Order granting Final Approval to this [Proposed] Consent Judgment after reconsideration or appellate review.

D. Continuing Jurisdiction

The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the interpretation and implementation of this [Proposed] Consent Judgment, as well as any matters arising out of, or related to, the interpretation or implementation of this [Proposed] Consent Judgment.