



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 8, 2017

Ms. Julie P. Doshier
Counsel for the Kaufman County Appraisal District
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP
500 North Akard
1800 Ross Tower
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2017-25580

Dear Ms. Doshier:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 683893 (Reference No. 89932).

The Kaufman County Appraisal District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for three categories of information related to specified individuals or entities who owned property during a specified time period. You state you will redact information pursuant to section 552.130(c) of the Government Code.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.149 of the

¹We note section 552.130(c) of the Government Code allows a governmental body to redact the information described in section 552.130(a) without the necessity of seeking a decision from the attorney general. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(c). If a governmental body redacts such information, it must notify the requestor in accordance with section 552.130(e). *See id.* § 552.130(d), (e).

Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.²

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.” Gov’t Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. Section 22.27(a) of the Tax Code provides the following:

Rendition statements, real and personal property reports, attachments to those statements and reports, and other information the owner of property provides to the appraisal office in connection with the appraisal of the property, including income and expense information related to a property filed with an appraisal office and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office or the comptroller about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential, are confidential and not open to public inspection. The statements and reports and the information they contain about specific real or personal property or a specific real or personal property owner and information voluntarily disclosed to an appraisal office about real or personal property sales prices after a promise it will be held confidential may not be disclosed to anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises property except as authorized by Subsection (b) of this section.

Tax Code § 22.27(a). You state the district is an “appraisal office” for purposes of section 22.27(a). You indicate the submitted information was furnished to the district by a property owner or an agent of a property owner in connection with the appraisal of the owner’s property and was obtained under promises of confidentiality. None of the exceptions in section 22.27(b) apply in this instance. *See id.* § 22.27(b). Based on your representations and our review, we find the district must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 22.27(a) of the Tax Code.³

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

²We assume the “representative sample” of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

³As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of the submitted information.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kelly McWethy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KSM/som

Ref: ID# 683893

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)