



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 10, 2022

Mr. Nicholas E. Goettsche
Counsel for the Wilson County Appraisal District
McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, P.C.
700 Jeffrey Way, Suite 100
Round Rock, Texas 78664-2425

OR2022-13269

Dear Mr. Goettsche:

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# 947663.

The Wilson County Appraisal District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for certain notes and records provided to the district by the property owners of specified properties during a defined period of time. You state you will release some information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

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, such as section 22.27 of the Tax Code, which provides, in pertinent part:

- (a) 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

¹ We 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 that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

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 inform us the district is an “appraisal office” for purposes of section 22.27(a). You also state the submitted information was provided by a property owner in connection with an appraisal of property. You also state none of the exceptions in section 22.27(b) apply in this instance. *See id.* § 22.27(b). Based upon 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 of the Tax Code.

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.

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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hoggatt
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWH/jm

Ref: ID# 947663

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)