



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 21, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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PRESS RELEASE

NEW WISCONSIN HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT FORMS AVAILABLE

MADISON - Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) announced today that the new Homestead Tax Credit Forms are available. "Everyone who qualifies should take advantage of the WI Homestead Tax Credit," Hebl said. "This refund is very beneficial for low or even moderate income people, but not unless they apply for it."

Moderate income citizens – people with household incomes under \$24,500, can receive an income tax credit up to \$1,160 for their property taxes or rent paid. Even lower income people who don't have to file income taxes, but who pay property taxes can receive this credit. Moreover, people who would have been eligible for this tax reduction in past years and didn't know about it can still apply for the rebate for the previous 4 years. In other words; 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and for the current application year of 2005. After April 17, 2005 you will no longer be able to claim for 2001.

The size of the rebate is based on your income and property taxes or rent equivalent. To be eligible you must have rented or owned a home in Wisconsin during the year you are applying for. The home could be in an apartment, a rented room, a mobile home, a farm or a nursing home room. The home may not be exempt from property taxes. You must have been a legal resident of Wisconsin for the entire year you are claiming, and you must have been 18 years old or older.

Household income is defined as all income reportable for tax purposes, plus certain nontaxable income. Examples of non-taxable income counted as household income include Social Security, unemployment compensation, child support and IRA contributions. In general the credit is higher when income is lower and/or when rent or property taxes are higher.

To claim your Homestead Credit, you must complete "Schedule H" or "H-EZ". You can request a copy of the form through the Department of Revenue by calling 266-1961. A copy may also be requested from my office by contacting me at Rep.Hebl@legis.state.wi.us or by writing to me at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708.

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