

## **Dallas Central Appraisal District Details Plan for 2020 ARB Protest Hearings**

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Ken Nolan, Chief Appraiser of Dallas Central Appraisal District, has announced a plan for allowing ARB protest hearings to be held safely and efficiently in light of the COVID-19 epidemic. "There are obvious concerns about the safety of ARB members and taxpayers," Nolan explained, "and taxing units are concerned about maintaining property tax revenue streams due to the ever increasing fiscal burdens caused by this crisis."

Developed in collaboration with leading property tax experts, Dallas Attorney Peter Smith and Austin attorney Jim Popp, Nolan's plan provides for a streamlined process, while complying with the requirements of the Texas Property Tax Code and Governor Abbott's recent executive orders addressing the emergency.

Under the plan, ARB hearings will be held by telephone, allowing the ARB member, the appraisal district representative, and the taxpayer to appear remotely. ARB panels will consist of one member, rather than three, to account for the shortage of available panelists. Importantly, participation in this process will be voluntary and will take place only by agreement between the taxpayer and the appraisal district.

The plan has been presented to the Governor's Office along with leading political figures. Interested trade organizations have applauded Nolan for his insight and creativity.

Dallas Central Appraisal District intends to beta test the process in late April. With the needs of taxing units and taxpayers in mind, Nolan remarked that he believes "the plan will be successful and will serve as a model for other appraisal districts across the state."