



Why You're Losing

When You Protest Your Own Business Property Taxes

Reducing and managing business personal and real property taxes is a constant battle for many businesses. Each year property tax values rise, requiring property owners to spend time and energy researching and collecting evidence for protests while continuing to run their businesses effectively. With so many demands on their attention, it's easy for business property owners to overlook critical exemptions and opportunities to protest and lower property valuations on real estate, equipment, inventory, and other property types. Even property owners who do take the time to protest don't often realize the full tax valuation reduction possible because they lack the knowledge and tools necessary to thoroughly challenge district values.

Smart business professionals know to focus on their strengths and outsource critical, specialty tasks to third party experts. This includes outsourcing property tax protests. "Many business property owners could save 30% or more on their property taxes if they utilize an experienced tax consultant like us," says Stephen Pierce, COO of Assessment Technologies, a property tax consulting firm in San Antonio. "In some cases, we can go back to previous years and save them even more."

Many business owners are reluctant to hire a third party due to concerns over cost. Most property tax consultants make a percentage of the realized savings. The actual percentage can vary from firm to firm. If they can't secure additional reductions and savings on taxes they don't earn the fee, which makes it low risk for business owners. However, in most cases business owners do see a reduction in property tax valuations when working with a property tax consultant. Those savings translate to accumulated savings year after year compared to self-protesting or not protesting at all.



"The cost of tax valuations compounds year after year," says Pierce. "By allowing a property tax consultant to advocate for your business property, you ensure that you



are getting the absolute lowest possible valuation this year and setting yourself up for reduced tax liabilities in the years to come.” Pierce continues by saying that the key to realizing significant savings with a property tax consultant is selecting one with experience protesting property values in the tax district the business property is located. An experienced property tax consultant will know what exemptions are available and how to apply for them, knows the market and can secure quality evidence, and has understanding of the operating procedures that are unique to the individual Appraisal District.

Pierce adds, “a truly committed and quality property tax consultant will aggressively advocate on behalf of the business owner and won’t rest until every stone has been turned. Just as important, they provide peace of mind so the owner or manager can stay focused on running the business, knowing that their property tax concerns are being handled and handled well.” Pierce also adds that a quality property tax firm actively educates their clients. “We are always publishing white papers, presenting best practices, and looking for ways to educate clients, real estate professionals, and other advisors so they are armed with knowledge and resources on all things property tax related, whether they use us or not.”



Assessment Technologies distributes much of their educational content through their monthly newsletter, The Advocate. Property owners can sign up to receive the newsletter for free at www.atechltd.com.

Assessment Technologies is a registered property tax consulting firm that assists property owners and investors by minimizing their property taxes. They work to recover overpayment refunds, reduce assessed values and provide savings on current and future property taxes. This San Antonio Texas-based company provides property tax services nationwide.