

September 10, 2026

SUMTER COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S INFORMATIONAL WARNING TO TAXPAYERS

BE AWARE OF A VIRAL PROPERTY TAX FREEZE SCAM FOR SENIORS

The Sumter County Tax Collector's Office is warning taxpayers about misleading information currently circulating on social media, websites, and online videos regarding a supposed **property tax "freeze" for seniors**.

Recent viral posts and videos are claiming that homeowners, particularly senior citizens, can freeze or eliminate their property taxes by submitting a federal form referred to as **"Form 1098-SR."**

THIS INFORMATION IS FALSE.

There is no federal program that automatically freezes or eliminates property taxes based solely on a taxpayer's age, and **there is no federal "Form 1098-SR" that provides a property tax freeze or exemption.**

Taxpayers should be cautious of anyone who:

- Claims you are entitled to a property tax freeze simply because you are a senior citizen.
- Instructs you to complete or submit a "1098-SR" form.
- Requests payment to process a supposed tax exemption or reduction.
- Requests your Social Security number, banking information, credit card information, or other sensitive personal information.
- Directs you to an unfamiliar website or asks you to provide information through social media.

Protect Yourself

Florida does have legitimate property tax exemptions and benefits for qualifying property owners. These programs have specific eligibility requirements and are administered through the appropriate county property appraiser.

Do not rely on information from viral social media posts or online videos when making decisions about your property taxes. Always verify the information directly with your local government office.

If you receive information about a property tax “freeze,” “senior tax freeze,” or “1098-SR,” please verify the information before providing personal information or paying any fee.

When in doubt, verify before you act.

The Sumter County Tax Collector’s Office is committed to providing accurate information and protecting our taxpayers from scams and fraudulent activity.