



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Department of Revenue State Tax Department

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Christopher G. Morris
State Tax Commissioner

For Immediate Release:
May 14, 2009

Media Contact: Kimberly Osborne
(304) 558-0211

West Virginia Tax Department Updates The Property Tax Equalization Study For Ohio County

CHARLESTON, W.V.—The West Virginia State Tax Department today announced sales questionnaires will be mailed to property owners later this month and field visits will begin in Ohio County, West Virginia as of May 18, 2009 in order to continue the Statewide Property Tax Equalization Study.

As part of the West Virginia State Tax Department's Property Tax Equalization Study, independent appraisers with U. S. Property Appraisal Services will be reviewing property assessments on behalf of the State of West Virginia. These appraisers will be distinguished by an identification card which includes a photograph of the individual appraiser and identifies the individual as a contractor of the State Tax Commissioner.

In order to accurately complete the study and to validate sales which occurred during the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, the appraisers will be contacting by telephone or sending sales questionnaires to the buyer, seller, or other person(s) with adequate knowledge of the sale. The State Tax Department asks those individuals who receive such communications to answer the appraiser's questions truthfully and completely. Please be aware, at no time will an appraiser ask for your personal information such as your social security number or other sensitive information.

U. S. Property & Appraisal Services' appraisers will begin visiting property locations as of May 18, 2009 to complete the study. All field personnel and their vehicles will be registered with the Ohio County Sheriff's office as well as the local police departments and the Ohio County Assessor's office. If any property owner questions the validity of the contractor, the property owner should contact the local County Assessor's office.

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the quality of property assessments in all 55 of the State's counties. In order to do this, approximately one third of the State's counties will be subject to review each year.

For additional information regarding the property assessment project, property owners can contact the State Tax Department at (304) 558-3940..

###