

August 12, 2026

Misinformation Alert: No Such Form “1098-SR” for Property Tax Relief

The Kern County Assessor-Recorder warns seniors and all property owners about false online claims and scam calls encouraging them to file a so-called federal form ‘1098-SR’ to reduce or freeze local property taxes or avoid school bonds. No such IRS form exists, and these claims are not legitimate.

Key Facts

- There is no IRS Form ‘1098-SR’. Videos and posts circulating online are false and instruct taxpayers to file a non-existent federal form to reduce or freeze local property taxes or avoid school bonds.
- No federal law caps or freezes property taxes for seniors. Property taxes are administered by state and local governments.
- County Assessor offices do not request personal identification by phone, text, or email. Personal information is accepted only via official, signed forms.

What You Should Do

- Do not share personal information with callers, websites, or videos claiming to provide or process ‘1098-SR’.
- Verify any property-tax relief claims directly with the Kern County Assessor-Recorder.
- Report suspicious contacts to our office and, if money was requested or paid, to the California Department of Justice and local law enforcement.

Legitimate California Property Tax Programs

- Proposition 13 limits annual increases to a property’s assessed value; properties are reassessed to market value primarily upon change in ownership or new construction.
- Proposition 19 allows eligible homeowners (55+, severely disabled, or victims of wildfire/natural disaster) to transfer their base-year value to a replacement primary residence, subject to requirements.
- State Controller’s Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program allows eligible seniors, blind, or disabled homeowners to postpone current-year property taxes if income and equity criteria are met; a lien applies and repayment is required.
- Homeowners’ Exemption provides a \$7,000 reduction in assessed value for an owner-occupied principal residence; a one-time claim is filed with the county assessor.

Contact the Assessor-Recorder

Phone: (661) 868-3485

Email: assessor@kerncounty.com

Office: 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301



ASSESSOR’S OFFICE / 1115 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 / 661.868.3485

RECORDER’S OFFICE / 1530 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301

HALL OF RECORDS / 1655 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 / 661.868.6400