Model Ordinance Policy Brief

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Supporting Housing Stability Through Property Tax Relief



The Challenge:

Rising property valuations and increasing tax burdens can create financial hardship for homeowners, particularly seniors, individuals on fixed incomes, and moderate-income households. Communities are increasingly looking for ways to improve property tax affordability while maintaining fiscal responsibility and essential public services.

What the Ordinance Does

- **Expands property tax relief** through homestead exemptions, circuit-breaker programs, automatic enrollment, and targeted assistance.
- **Reduces tax shock** by establishing guardrails, value caps, and phase-in provisions for significant assessment increases.
- **Provides flexible relief** options through property tax deferral programs that help homeowners remain in their homes.

Why REALTORS® Support It

- **Helps homeowners** remain in their homes as property values and tax burdens increase.
- **Supports housing stability** and long-term homeownership.
- **Reduces displacement** pressures on vulnerable homeowners.
- **Promotes transparency** and accountability in property tax and incentive programs.
- **Preserves private property rights** while providing targeted tax relief options.

Key Policy Considerations

- **Property value growth** should not unintentionally force homeowners out of their homes.
- **Targeted relief programs** can improve affordability while maintaining local fiscal flexibility.
- **Greater transparency** helps ensure tax incentives deliver measurable community benefits.
- **Property tax stability** supports neighborhood investment and long-term homeownership.

The Bottom Line:

This model ordinance provides local governments with practical tools to improve property tax affordability, protect vulnerable homeowners, and promote long-term housing stability. By combining targeted relief measures with transparency and accountability provisions, communities can help homeowners remain in their homes while maintaining responsible fiscal practices.