

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA TAX EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF EQUALIZATION
OF VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY
WITHIN BOX BUTTE COUNTY FOR
TAX YEAR 2020

COUNTY NUMBER 7
FINDINGS AND ORDER

APPEARANCES FOR THE COUNTY:

Terry Curtiss, Box Butte County Attorney
Michelle Robinson, Box Butte County Assessor
Susan Lore, Box Butte County Commissioner

The following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order are adopted pursuant to a motion unanimously approved by the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission.

The Commission, as part of its statewide equalization proceedings, finds that the levels of value of real property in Box Butte County for tax year 2020 satisfy the requirements of law. The Commission therefore orders no adjustment to levels of value for Box Butte County.

I. APPLICABLE LAW

1. The Commission is required to meet annually to equalize the assessed values and special values of all real property based on the abstracts submitted by the county assessors. The Commission must also equalize the values of real property valued by the state.¹
2. To achieve equalization, the Commission is authorized to increase or decrease the value of a class or subclass of real property in any county or taxing authority or of real property valued by the state so that all classes or subclasses of real property in all counties fall within an acceptable range.²
3. An acceptable range is the percentage of variation from a standard for valuation as measured by an established indicator of central tendency of assessment. Acceptable ranges are: (a) for agricultural land and horticultural land, 69% to 75% of actual value; (b) for lands receiving special valuation, 69% to 75% of special valuation as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-1343;

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5022 (Reissue 2018).

² Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5023(1) (Reissue 2018).

and (c) for all other real property, 92% to 100% of actual value.³ The median has been adopted by the Commission as the preferred established indicator of central tendency.⁴

4. Any increase or decrease shall cause the level of value determined by the commission to be at the midpoint of the applicable acceptable range.⁵ Any decrease or increase to a subclass of property shall also cause the level of value determined by the commission for the class from which the subclass is drawn to be within the applicable acceptable range.⁶
5. An assessment/sales ratio is a tool used under professionally accepted mass appraisal methods to measure and evaluate the level and uniformity of assessed values. The ratio is determined by dividing the assessed value of a parcel of real property by its sale price. The assessment/sales ratio is expressed as a percentage.⁷
6. Nebraska law requires the Property Tax Administrator to make annual comprehensive assessment ratio studies of the average level and degree of uniformity of the assessments as well as compliance with assessment requirements for each major class of real property subject to the property tax in each county.⁸
7. The annual reports and opinions of the Property Tax Administrator shall contain statistical and narrative reports informing the Commission of the level and quality of assessment of the classes and subclasses of real property within each county. A certification of the opinion of the Property Tax Administrator regarding the level of value and quality of assessment of the classes and subclasses of real property in each county shall also be included.⁹ The Property Tax Administrator may also make nonbinding recommendations for consideration by the Commission.¹⁰
8. The Commission may consider provisions of state and federal law, regulations, court cases, treatises, periodicals, and reference works identified in its rules, and any evidence admitted in the course of the statewide equalization proceedings. No other factual information may be

³ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5023(2) (Reissue 2018).

⁴ 442 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 9 § 004 (2011).

⁵ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5023(3) (Reissue 2018).

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5023(4) (Reissue 2018).

⁷ 442 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 9 § 002.02 (2011).

⁸ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-1327(3) (Reissue 2018).

⁹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5027(3) (Reissue 2018).

¹⁰ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5027(4) (Reissue 2018).

considered. The Commission may evaluate the evidence using its experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge.¹¹

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

A. GENERAL

1. A statistical and narrative report informing the Commission and certifying the opinion of the Property Tax Administrator of the level of value and quality of assessments of real property in Box Butte County was timely received by the Commission.
2. The level of value for any class or subclass of real property described below is determined by its median assessment/sales ratio as indicated by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator unless that ratio is deemed unreliable, the sample from which it is drawn is not representative of the class or subclass, or the level of value has been determined by the Property Tax Administrator based on other generally accepted mass appraisal techniques.

B. RESIDENTIAL CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY

1. The level of value for the residential class of real property is 96% of actual value as indicated by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator.¹²
2. This level of value is within the applicable acceptable range.
3. For each subclass of the residential class of real property: (a) the level of value is within the applicable acceptable range, (b) the number of sales for the subclass is insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study, or (c) an adjustment by a percentage of value is not supported by the evidence.
4. No adjustment by a percentage of value of the residential class of real property or a subclass thereof is supported by the evidence.

C. COMMERCIAL CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY

1. The level of value for the commercial class of real property is 100% of actual value as indicated by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator.¹³

¹¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-5016 (Reissue 2018).

¹² Exhibit 7:19.

¹³ Exhibit 7:19.

2. This level of value is within the applicable acceptable range.
3. For each subclass of the commercial class of real property: (a) the level of value is within the applicable acceptable range, (b) the number of sales for the subclass is insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study, or (c) an adjustment by a percentage of value is not supported by the evidence.
4. No adjustment by a percentage of value of the commercial class of real property or a subclass thereof is supported by the evidence.

D. AGRICULTURAL LAND AND HORTICULTURAL LAND CLASS OF REAL PROPERTY NOT RECEIVING SPECIAL VALUATION

1. The level of value for the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not receiving special valuation is 69% of actual value as indicated by the Reports and Opinions of the Property Tax Administrator.¹⁴
2. This level of value is within the applicable acceptable range.
3. For each subclass of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not receiving special valuation: (a) the level of value is within the applicable acceptable range, (b) the number of sales for the subclass is insufficient to provide a reliable statistical study, or (c) an adjustment by a percentage of value is not supported by the evidence.
4. No adjustment by a percentage of value of the agricultural land and horticultural land class of real property not receiving special valuation or a subclass thereof is supported by the evidence.

III. CONCLUSION OF LAW

An adjustment to the level of value of real property in Box Butte County is not required by law.

V. ORDER

1. No adjustment shall be made to the levels of value for the residential, commercial, and agricultural land and horticultural land classes of real property within Box Butte County, or any subclass thereof, for tax year 2020.

¹⁴ Exhibit 7:19.

2. A copy of this order shall be served on the Property Tax Administrator by personal delivery, the Box Butte County Assessor by certified mail, return receipt requested, the Box Butte County Clerk, the Chairperson of the Box Butte County Board of Equalization, and the Box Butte County Attorney via first class mail, sufficient postage prepaid.
3. This order is effective the date it is signed and sealed.

Signed and Sealed: May 8, 2020

Steven A. Keetle, Commissioner

Robert W. Hotz, Commissioner

James D. Kuhn, Commissioner