

# **4444444 Alabama Department of Revenue 4444444**

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## **State Assists Marshall County in Reappraisal**

*MONTGOMERY, May 22, 2000*—On May 22, 2000, the Alabama Department of Revenue officially extended a helping hand to Marshall County Tax Assessor Bryan Waldrop's office and the Marshall County Commission.

“Earlier this month, the department notified Marshall County that it must conduct a property reappraisal of all residential and commercial property located within the county and be ready to collect on the new values by Oct. 1, 2002,” explained Lewis Easterly, revenue department secretary, during the May 22 county commission meeting.

“From our discussions with Mr. Waldrop, he and the department agree that Marshall County simply cannot complete this tremendous task alone, based on current staffing and resource assessments. Current staffing levels for the county's reappraisal and mapping areas are at 13 employees; minimum staffing needs for a county comparable to Marshall are set at 18,” explained Easterly.

“Bryan recognizes the problem, and he and his staff are diligently working with the limited resources they have, but it comes to a point when you can only do so much alone. In the reappraisal process, the state and counties have a shared responsibility. We must get the job done. Failure to complete the reappraisal is not an option,” said Easterly.

During the May 22 county commission meeting, Easterly offered a Memorandum of Agreement for Administrative Support and Services to the county commission for consideration. The agreement details the responsibilities of the department and its role in the reappraisal effort, beginning June 1.

“The tax dollars spent to fund the reappraisal process would be invested in the county in terms of county personnel, training for county personnel, and county computer resources. In the long run, the investment would pay off. That is our commitment to the county,” said Easterly.

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In underlining the state's commitment to the county reappraisal effort, Easterly also stressed an equally important commitment to the property owners in Marshall County.

"It is important for property owners to be informed of the reappraisal process and how it will directly affect them. If approved by the county commission, the department plans to provide status reports on the county's progress at regularly scheduled commission meetings. This would be an excellent public forum," said Easterly.

"Reappraisal is a time-consuming and difficult task, even under the best staffing and resource conditions. By working together, we can accomplish a fair, thorough, and timely reappraisal and at the same time, make a sizeable investment in the county for the future. That is our goal for October 2002," concluded Easterly.