Letter to the Voters

This is a re-write of a letter to the editor submitted to the Yakima Herald. They did not publish because they don't take letters from candidates during election season.

Mea Culpa!

I want to apologize for the claim I made that senior citizens must arrive in-person to fill out an exemption form at the assessor's office. To be fair, when I called the office directly they were (in fact) unable to provide me a digital copy, saying "those seeking exemption need to come in".

Nevertheless, there is a way to access the *Senior Citizen and People with Disabilities Exemption* form online using the following steps:

1. Visit https://www.yakimacounty.us/218/Assessors-Office.
2. First click on the Senior or Disabled Exemptions tab. There's good information here, but there is no form. You will find a DOR pamphlet, but it circles you back to the local Assessor's office for application. No dice.
3. Click then on the Forms tab further down the navigation bar (on the left, or at the very bottom on the screen on mobile).
4. Don't make the mistake of looking for the exemption form in the "Forms and Applications" section, it's not there. Instead, look under the "Other Resources" section and select "Department of Revenue Forms."
   You got it! This will take you away from the assessor's website.
5. You are now on the DOR website. There's a lot to look at, so scroll down vigorously and the form you are looking for is the 99th unmarked link (of 102) toward the bottom of the page.
6. You may want some guidance with this process, but you won't find that here. You may need to hop into the assessor's office after all...

In my opinion, **nothing this important should be hard to find**.
Let's Fix This.

Keith Effler
Taxpayer Focused.