



## **TOWN OF WAKEFIELD TAXPAYER INFORMATION GUIDE**

This guide is intended to inform taxpayers about some of the many tax relief programs available to them.

### **Wakefield Board of Assessors**

**Assessing Department  
1 Lafayette St.  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
(781) 246-6380**

The Town of Wakefield is committed to assisting our senior population with information about programs that may lower their financial burden. This guide also informs non-elderly persons about programs they too may be eligible for.

Personal exemptions are a reduction in one's tax obligation based upon their particular personal

circumstance as set forth in the Massachusetts General Laws. An exemption can provide partial or full relief of the tax obligation on real property.

### **Elderly**

This exemption provides relief to seniors aged 65 and older who meet certain income, asset, and residency requirements. Qualified seniors receive a \$500 reduction in their total real estate tax obligation. Income must be less than \$23,718 if single or \$35,578 if married. Assets cannot exceed \$40,000 if single or \$55,000 if married.

### **Blind**

This exemption provides relief to taxpayers who are legally blind and meet eligibility requirements. Taxpayers will receive a \$500 reduction in their tax obligation.

### **Hardship**

This exemption provides full or partial relief, at the discretion of the Board of Assessors, to those taxpayers who may be unable to

meet their tax obligations by reason of age, infirmity and poverty.

### **Veteran**

This exemption exists for veterans who have a service-connected disability of at least 10% and meet residency requirements. Qualified applicants can receive between \$400 and \$1500 off of their taxes.

### **Surviving spouse, elderly, minor child of deceased parent**

Provided ownership, whole estate (\$40,000), and residency requirements are met, taxpayers can receive a \$175 reduction in their tax obligation.

### **Tax Deferral**

Persons aged 65 or over who meet residency and income requirements can opt to defer 100% of their annual tax obligation at a rate of 4% until such time as they sell their property or the deferred amount equals 50% of the home's value.

## **Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit**

Seniors can qualify for this state income tax credit if their property tax payments are greater than 10% of their annual income. For renters, the law assumes that 25% of rent goes toward property taxes. Accordingly, renters may claim as a credit the amount by which 25% of their annual rental payment exceeds 10% of their total income.

For circuit breaker tax credit information, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at (617) 887-6367.

## **Other Important Notes**

Applicants for the various programs are normally required to bring their latest income tax filings, end of year social security statements, birth certificate, DD-214 and VA statement of disability and relevant bank records.

The eligibility date for all statutory exemptions is July 1.

All information provided is kept confidential and only reviewed by the Assessors to determine eligibility.

It is recommended that all applications be filed with the Assessing Department before December 15<sup>th</sup> or within three months after the mailing of the actual tax bill, usually not later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Also, exemptions are granted for one year only. An application must be filed every year.

While there are other exemptions offered in accordance with state law, this guide serves to outline the most utilized exemptions available.

If you think that you may be eligible for any of the exemptions contained herein or would like more detailed information, please feel free to contact:

Assessing Department  
Town Hall  
1 Lafayette Street  
Wakefield, MA 01880

(781) 246-6380

### **Office Hours**

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The information contained herein does not supercede the prevailing Massachusetts General Laws regarding statutory exemptions.