

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN URGES AREA RESIDENTS TO FILE FOR BASIC AND ENHANCED STAR TAX EXEMPTIONS

TAXABLE STATUS DAY IS MARCH 1, 2013

HUNTINGTON, NY – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, is urging all Town of Huntington & Town of Babylon residents to file for New York State's School Tax Relief (STAR) Program. The STAR program works in two parts:

Basic STAR is available to New Yorkers who own and live in their own home, condominium, or co-operative apartment, as a primary residence, provided their household income does not exceed \$500,000.

Enhanced STAR is available to senior citizens aged 65 and older. If you currently receive the Basic Star exemption and will turn 65 by December 31, 2012, you must file for Enhanced Star benefits. To be eligible for this program, the property must be the owner's primary residence and the application for the exemption must be submitted by March 1st ("taxable status date"). First time applicants must have an adjusted gross income that does not exceed \$79,050 including taxable IRA distributions for the 2011 tax year and submit proof of age and income documentation. The Enhanced STAR exemption must be renewed each year, by submitting a renewal application and income documentation or through the automatic renewal Income Verification Program.

"I strongly encourage all those who are eligible for STAR programs to take advantage of these programs," Legislator Stern said. For additional information about these exemptions please call the Assessor's office: Town of Huntington: (631) 351-3226 or visit http://www.huntingtonny.gov/permit_pics/1403.pdf. Town of Babylon: (631) 957-3014 or visit <http://www.townofbabylon.com/DocumentCenter/View/123> Applications must be filed or postmarked on or before March 1, 2013.