

Taxable Status Day is Sunday, March 1, 2015

Deadline extended to Monday March 2, 2015

A number of real property tax exemptions are available to residents of the Towns of Huntington, Islip and Babylon. Residents must file for these exemptions by March 2, 2015. I strongly encourage all who are eligible to take advantage of these programs.

The Basic STAR exemption 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. This exemption does NOT have to be renewed annually.

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, 2015, you may 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 2nd. Applicants must have an adjusted gross income, minus taxable IRA distributions, that does not exceed \$83,300 for the 2013 tax year and submit proof of age, residency and income documentation. The Enhanced STAR exemption must be renewed each year, by submitting a renewal application and income documentation or through signing up for the automatic renewal Income Verification Program.

Limited Income Seniors Exemption: Not to be confused with the Enhanced STAR exemption for seniors, the Senior Citizen and Low Income Exemption is for senior households with annual gross incomes of less than \$37,400, in 2014, including social security, for residents of the Town of Huntington and the Town of Babylon. Those 65 and older, or who will turn 65 in 2015 should apply. The property must be the homeowner's legal and primary residence.

Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption: is available to volunteers with at least 5 years enrolled in active service. The property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse and be located in the town in which the volunteer serves. Volunteers with 20 or more years of service may contact the assessor's office regarding local options. This exemption must be renewed annually.

Veterans Exemptions: Veterans, spouses and un-remarried widows and widowers of Veterans may be eligible for a number of programs, including an exemption for those who served during wartime, those who served in active combat, Cold War Veterans who served during non-wartime years and Gold Star Parents. For current and new applicants, the property must be the primary and legal residence of the veteran and the veteran must supply a DD-214 received upon separation from the service. A number of school districts have opted into the Alternative Veterans Exemption for School Taxes. Please contact your local assessor's office for more information regarding this exemption. Other programs may have different residency requirements, so please contact the assessor if you have any questions.

Persons with Disabilities and Low Income Exemptions: Disabled persons with documented proof of disability and with gross annual household incomes of less than \$37,400, for 2014, including social security, disability and workers compensation may be eligible for an exemption. The property must be the primary and legal residence of the owner-applicant.

Home Improvement Exemptions: Homeowners may be eligible for a phased-in tax exemption for certain home improvements. The Towns of Huntington and Babylon have different requirements, so please contact them at the number listed below.

First Time Homebuyers: First time homebuyers of newly constructed homes may be entitled to an exemption. Some towns have limited exemptions for buyers of existing housing, so please contact the assessor's office for additional information.

For additional information about these exemptions please call the Assessor's office:

Town of Huntington: (631) 351-3226 or visit

http://www.huntingtonny.gov/filestorage/13749/13851/17258/17286/Residential_Property_Tax_Exemptions.pdf

Town of Babylon: (631) 957-3014 or visit

<http://www.townofbabylon.com/>

Town of Islip: (631) 224-5585

<http://townofislip-ny.gov/departments/assessor>