

ELDERLY/DISABLED/TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF HOMEOWNERS TAXATION RELIEF FUND

ELDERLY

- Applicant or their spouse must be 65 on or before July 01, 2015
 - Must provide evidence of age

DISABLED

- Must have been rated totally or permanently disabled by Social Security Administration or other qualified agency on or before July 01, 2015
 - Must provide evidence of age

TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF

- Must provide a letter detailing your financial concerns, what happened to cause your situation, what you are asking and how you plan to get back on track.
 - Must provide evidence of age

MAIN CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR TAXATION RELIEF

- **Combined prior year annual household income for all occupants of the property cannot exceed \$19,750 if Single, \$22,773 includes all others.**
 - Annual income from all sources includes: (but not limited too) Social Security (after Medicare is deducted), Supplemental Security Income, Retirement or Pension Benefits, Veterans' Benefits, Workers Compensation, Salaries or Wages, Interest or Dividends
- **Applicant(s) must live in the household as your primary residence**
- **If Interest and Penalties exist they must be paid by the applicant**

DONATION /CONTRIBUTION FORM

Your contribution will help provide temporary assistance to Elderly/Disabled and those in need of Temporary Tax Relief for Residents who have proven financial hardship.

\$_____ Amount Donated. Please make a separate check payable to

“Town of North Reading”. Please reference Taxation Aid Fund in Memo section.

*Contributions can also be made on-line at North Reading Website by clicking on “PAY BILLS ONLINE”

Please remit this portion of the form with your donation. Thank you.

Important Facts Regarding Property Tax Bills

- Assessors Office “does not” raise or lower taxes
- Assessors Office “does not” make the laws which affect property owners
- Assessors are required by law to assess taxes in an amount sufficient to cover the state and local appropriations voted.
- Assessors Office has nothing to do with the total amount of taxes collected.
- Assessors primary responsibility is to find the “full and fair cash value” of all properties so that each taxpayer pays his/her fair share of taxes.
- Keep in mind the Assessment date is January 1st. This date is important for new property owner and property that has/had a building permit.
- The property is legally assessed to the owner as of January 1st, it is the responsibility as a property owner to seek a real estate tax bill if you do not receive one.

REASON’S TO FILE AN ABATEMENT:

- If you dispute the assessed property value. The Assessor’s office is responsible for the value, only not the tax amount.
- If the data is incorrect such as # of bathrooms, square footage of home/structure

Frequently Asked Questions to Participate in “TAXATION RELIEF FUND”

- ***Are tax relief recipients exempt from paying property taxes?***
 - NO. Tax relief is payment by the Taxation Aid Committee to reimburse certain homeowners who meet the legal requirements, for a part of property taxes paid, and is not an exemption. You will still receive your tax bill(s) and be responsible for paying your property taxes each year.
- ***How much tax relief will I get?***
 - The amount will vary depending on applicants needs for temporary tax relief and overall net worth.
- ***If I am awarded relief is it guaranteed every year going forward?***
 - NO. A new application must be submitted annually on or before February 15th
- ***What if my taxes are paid by my mortgage company?***
 - Adjustments will be made prior to May tax bill.
- ***How long does it take to process an application?***
 - Processing time depends on the amount of workload received at any given time within the tax year. It is not possible to provide specific length of time in which to expect your application to process. Any temporary tax relief awarded will reflect on your May tax bill.
- ***Can I receive relief on more than one property?***
 - NO. You can only receive tax relief on your primary residence in any given tax year.
- ***Do I have a right to appeal the Taxation Aid Committee decision?***
 - NO. There is no appeal process.