

SOUTH HUNTINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING

TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

JANUARY 10, 2024



**CREATING THE
LEADERS OF TOMORROW**

INPUT FROM THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

- The Board of the Town of Huntington has recently adopted changes regarding the below Real Property Tax Exemptions, in accordance with changes approved by the NYS Legislature.
 - Senior Citizens With Limited Income
 - Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income
 - Volunteer Firefighter / Ambulance Workers

INPUT FROM THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

- The law requires school districts to hold a public hearing to discuss proposed changes to these exemptions.
- At our next Board meeting on January 24, 2024 the Board of Education will make a determination as to whether or not they will adopt these changes, and offer these Exemptions to residents who meet the respective criteria of these exemptions.

Senior Citizens With Limited Income & Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income

FIRST:

The NYS Legislature has authorized municipalities to increase the income ceiling from a max of \$37,400 to \$58,400 on a sliding scale.

SECOND:

This change has 3 main parts:

1. The Income Year for both the Senior Exemption & Disabled Exemption will now be 2 YEARS PRIOR to the Assessment Year (Previously it was 1 Year) (i.e. Now a 2024 Tax Exemption would look at a 2022 Tax Return)
2. Gender neutral language has been inserted

Senior Citizens With Limited Income & Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income (Cont'd)

3. Income Calculation:
 - a. It is mandated that Tax Exempt Interest & Dividends are Added to Adjusted Gross Income
 - b. It is mandated that Loss Limitation categories are limited to \$3,000 each for a maximum of \$15,000. (This refers to various schedules of your tax return that the town looks at when determining eligibility.)
 - c. Taxable IRA Distributions are to be included as income when being placed on the new exemption tables.
 - d. Social Security Benefits are to be included as income when being placed on the new exemption tables.
 - e. Unreimbursed Medical Expenses & Prescription Expenses Not Covered by Insurance will be Reduced from income when being placed on the new exemption tables.

Current & Proposed Income Limits

(First Year of Impact would be 2024-2025 Tax Bill)

Senior Citizens With Limited Income & Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income			
Exemption Level		Current Adopted Income Limits	Potential Increased Income Limits
50%		\$29,000 or less	\$50,000 or less
45%		\$29,000 to \$30,000	\$50,001 to \$51,000
40%		\$30,000 to \$31,000	\$51,001 to \$52,000
35%		\$31,000 to \$32,000	\$52,001 to \$53,000
30%		\$32,000 to \$32,900	\$53,001 to \$53,900
25%		\$32,900 to \$33,800	\$53,901 to \$54,800
20%		\$33,800 to \$34,700	\$54,801 to \$55,700
15%		\$ 34,700 to \$35,600	\$55,701 to \$56,600
10%		\$35,600 to \$36,500	\$56,601 to \$57,500
5%		\$36,500 to \$37,400	\$57,501 to \$58,400

Senior Citizens With Limited Income & Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income

Approximate Number of Households potentially impacted by these exemptions:

- Senior Citizens With Limited Income = 425 (Approx.)
- Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income = 20 (Approx.)

Specific Ownership Requirements can be found on the Town's website. A link is provided later on in this presentation.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & AMBULANCE WORKERS EXEMPTION

The changes for Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers is due to changes at the New York State level which combine aspects into a single Real Property Tax Law, and to allow the Town of Huntington to continue the Volunteer exemptions.

1. The new law reads that the exemption may be up to 10% – currently the Town of Huntington awards qualified members 10%
2. The new law now reads that minimum service requirements are from 2-5 years in order to be eligible for the Volunteer exemption. The Town of Huntington has adopted a resolution allowing the NYS change to now be 2 years, this is now subject to District discretion.
3. The new law reads that after 20 years active service, recipients may qualify for 10% for life. (Caveat: Town of Huntington allows 10% exemption now so if that remains then this section is not new for TOH.)

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & AMBULANCE WORKERS EXEMPTION (Cont'd)

4. The new law allows for an un-remarried spouse of a recipient killed in the line of duty to continue the exemption if the recipient had been enrolled for at least 5 years. (the TOH adopted resolution is consistent with this minimum requirement.)

5. The new law allows for an un-remarried spouse of a deceased firefighter to continue the exemption if the recipient had been enrolled for at least 20 years. (the TOH adopted resolution is consistent with this minimum requirement.)

6. Old law allows for recipients who live in cooperative apartments to receive the exemption – the new law does not.

- Note: In the Town of Huntington, firefighters do not have to reside in the district they serve, but have to reside in the Town.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & AMBULANCE WORKERS EXEMPTION (Cont'd)

Approximate Number of Households potentially impacted by these exemptions:

- Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers = **158 (Approx.)**

Specific Ownership Requirements can be found on the Town's website. A link is provided later on in this presentation.

WHO DOES THIS IMPACT ?

Assuming these changes are adopted by the Board of Education on January 24, 2024

- South Huntington School District

- \$0 Financial Impact to the School District, since the total Tax Levy approved by the voters will still be collected.

- Below groups (based on Town's approval) would be provided with a partial tax break from the school district portion of their property taxes.

- Senior Citizens With Limited Income
- Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income
- Volunteer Firefighter / Ambulance Workers

- Homeowners not part of one of these groups.

- Would cover the cost for the exemption provided to others. Tax burden essentially shifted from one resident to another.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- School Districts DO NOT
 - Establish assessed values
 - Set the tax rates
 - Identify what exemptions should or shouldn't be available to homeowners
 - Approve or disapprove individual homeowner requests for exemptions
- School Districts DO
 - Provide the authority for towns to identify at what level an exemption can be provided to individual homeowners
 - Typically adopt the same income levels as the Town and County to ensure
 - A consistent benefit from taxing authority to taxing authority
 - Those with limited incomes receive the maximum benefit provided by law

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This presentation will be on our website for further review.

Additional information can be found on the Town's websites:

<https://www.huntingtonny.gov/tax-exemptions>

<https://www.huntingtonny.gov/assessor>

Town Assessor (Lisa Leonick) (631) 351-3226.