



"Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" - Repealed July 6, 2023

The "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program was enacted in August 2022, and was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6th, 2023, with an effective date of October 11, 2023. The repeal of this program does not affect the approved applicant's tax bill amounts due on September 29, 2023 or March 15, 2024. The tax bill due on those dates will be either the stabilized amount, or the actual tax bill amount if this amount is less than the stabilized amount. This means there will be no reapplication process, and no need to follow up with the Assessing Department in late August as previously mentioned.

To assist lower-income seniors avoid higher property taxes, two existing State programs are being expanded. Please see below for details and contact information.

Please take note that these are State programs and while the City plays a role in the administration of them, the City is not responsible for the policy objectives of these initiatives and any questions or concerns should be directed to your legislative representative. To find your representative, please visit: <https://legislature.maine.gov/senate/>

The **Property Tax Fairness Credit** allows eligible Mainers to receive a portion of the property tax or rent paid during the tax year on the Maine Individual Income Tax Return.

Note: This program is not administered by the City of Rockland; to claim the credit, you must file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid.

For help, call Maine Revenue at 207-624-8475.

For more info, visit:
www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-reliefcredits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness-credit

The **State Property Tax Deferral Program** is a loan program that pays the annual property tax bills of Maine residents who are ages 65 and older and meet income and asset requirements. The loan program requires repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate.

Note: The application must be filed with the Assessor's Office between January 1 and April 1 each year. Applications are then sent to Maine Revenue who review and make the determination for acceptance and approval.

For more info, visit:
www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-creditsprograms/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program

Other Tax Relief Programs

Applications are available online or the Assessing Department

Homestead Exemption

The Homestead exemption is for eligible Rockland homeowners who apply and are approved for the exemption by April 1st. You must be a permanent resident of Maine, have owned and lived in your house for the prior 12 months and prove Maine Residency. The Homestead Exemption reduces the taxable value up to \$25,000.

Blind Exemption

The homeowner must be certified legally blind by their eye care professional. The Blind Exemption reduces the taxable value up to \$4,000.

Veteran's Exemption

The Veteran must be at least 62, or be receiving a pension or compensation from the U.S. Military for total disability, have been in active service in the armed forces during a federally recognized war period and retired or discharged under honorable conditions. The Veteran's Exemption reduces the taxable value up to \$6,000 for eligible homeowners.

Widow/Widower of Veteran Exemption

A non-remarried widow or widower of a Veteran who would have been entitled to the Veteran Exemption may be eligible for the Widow/Widower of a Veteran Exemption. The Widow/Widower of a Veteran Exemption reduces the taxable value up to \$6,000.