



TOWN OF READING TAXPAYER INFORMATION GUIDE FY2026

This guide is intended to inform taxpayers about some of the many tax relief programs available to them.

Reading Board of Assessors

**Assessing Department
16 Lowell St.
Reading, MA 01867
(781) 942-9027**

The Town of Reading is committed to assisting our senior population with information about programs that may lower their financial burden. This guide also informs non-elderly persons about programs they too may be eligible for.

Personal exemptions are a reduction in one's tax obligation based upon

their particular personal circumstance as set forth in the Massachusetts General Laws. An exemption can provide partial or full relief of the tax obligation on real property.

Elderly

This exemption provides relief to seniors aged 65 and older who meet certain income, asset, and residency requirements. Qualified seniors receive a \$1000 reduction in their total real estate tax obligation. Income must be less than \$26,526 if single or \$39,787 if married. Assets cannot exceed \$53,050 if single or \$74,211 if married. Income limits change slightly year to year.

Blind

This exemption provides relief to taxpayers who are legally blind and meet eligibility requirements. Taxpayers will receive a \$500 reduction in their tax obligation.

Hardship

This exemption provides full or partial relief, at the discretion of the Board of Assessors, to those

taxpayers who may be unable to meet their tax obligations by reason of age, infirmity and poverty.

Veteran

This exemption exists for veterans who have a service-connected disability of at least 10% and meet residency requirements. Qualified applicants can receive between \$800 and \$3,000 off of their taxes.

Surviving spouse, elderly, minor child of deceased parent

Provided ownership, whole estate (\$41,000), and residency requirements are met, taxpayers can receive a \$175 reduction in their tax obligation.

Tax Deferral

Persons aged 65 or over who meet residency, ownership and have less than \$40,000 income can opt to defer 100% of their annual tax obligation at a rate of 4% until such time as they sell their property or the deferred amount equals 50% of the home's value.

16% upon death of the applicant.

Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

Seniors can qualify for this state income tax credit if their property tax payments are greater than 10% of their annual income. For renters, the law assumes that 25% of rent goes toward property taxes. Accordingly, renters may claim as a credit the amount by which 25% of their annual rental payment exceeds 10% of their total income.

For circuit breaker tax credit information, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at (617) 887-6367.

Reading Senior Circuit Breaker Exemption

If you receive a Senior Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit, you might also qualify for our local Reading Senior Circuit Breaker Exemption. If you receive the income credit, have owned and occupied a home in Reading for the past 10 years and have no other significant assets, the town will match your credit. Apply in August & September with Assessors.

Other Important Notes

Applicants for the various programs are normally required to bring their latest income tax filings, end of year social security statements, birth certificate, DD-214 and VA statement of disability and relevant bank records.

The eligibility date for all statutory exemptions is July 1.

All information provided is kept confidential and only reviewed by the Assessors to determine eligibility.

It is recommended that all applications be filed with the Assessing Department before December 15th or within three months after the mailing of the actual tax bill, usually not later than March 31st.

Also, exemptions are granted for one year only. An application must be filed every year.

While there are other exemptions offered in accordance with state law, this guide serves to outline the most utilized exemptions available.

If you think that you may be eligible for any of the exemptions contained herein or would like more detailed information, please feel free to contact:

Assessing Department
Town Hall
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867

(781) 942-9027

Office Hours
Mon., Wed. & Thurs.
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues. 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Closed Friday

The information contained herein does not supercede the prevailing Massachusetts General Laws regarding statutory exemptions.