

State and Local Tax Reductions and Benefits Available to Qualified Windsor Residents

Town of Windsor October 1, 2016 Grand List



INTRODUCTION

This is a brief guide to the various assessment exemptions and benefits currently available to qualified taxpayers. The following definitions will be helpful to you as you read the information enclosed.

An **exemption** is an amount that an individual's assessment can be reduced.

A **benefit** is a direct reduction in the amount of tax payable.

Filing Status is the frequency in which a taxpayer needs to reapply for their exemption and/or benefit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Many of the exemptions and benefit programs described in this booklet have maximum income guidelines that are determined by state regulations and are subject to change each year. Please be sure you are reading the most current guide available by checking the date on the front cover.

If after reviewing the following information, you have questions or think you may qualify for one or more of the programs listed, please contact the Assessor's Office at 860-285-1816.

Windsor Town Hall
275 Broad Street
Windsor, CT 06095

Lawrence LaBarbera Town Assessor	860-285-1819
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William Sandwell Asst. Town Assessor	860-285-1818
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Assessment Clerk	860-285-1816
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Town Council:

Mayor Donald S. Trinks
Deputy Mayor Jody L. Terranova
Councilor James Govoni
Councilor Jill Jackson-Jenkins
Councilor Donald Jepsen, Jr.
Councilor Randy P. McKenney
Councilor Bernard Petkis
Councilor Alan J. Simon
Councilor Kenneth Wilkos

BENEFITS

HELP ELDERLY AGAINST RISING TAXES = "HEART"

Heart Program Filing Period: Every 2 years

STATE

Any taxpayer who is 65 years old, owns and occupies a home in Windsor, and meets certain income guidelines, may be eligible for elderly tax relief benefits under the HEART program. Depending upon their income, **qualified** applicants receive direct credits off their tax bills that range from 10% to 50%. For purposes of this program, income is defined as adjusted gross per IRS **plus** Social Security. The income guidelines for this year are as follows:

Single: \$35,200 Married \$42,900

LOCAL

In addition to the benefits described above, the Town of Windsor provides for local elderly tax relief benefits under the local HEART program. For those individuals qualifying for the state program described above, the town provides for an additional 40% of their state elderly benefit.

Any taxpayer who is 65 years old, owns and occupies a home in Windsor, and does not meet the previously mentioned income guidelines may still be eligible for a local benefit listed below. For purposes of this program, income is defined as adjusted gross per IRS **plus** Social Security. The income guidelines and corresponding benefits for this year are as follows:

Single:	\$35,201 to \$43,500	\$240.00 credit
Married:	\$42,901 to \$43,500	\$360.00 credit

To qualify, application must be filed with the Assessor between February 1 and May 15.

EXEMPTIONS

Veterans Exemption Filing Status: NONE

A Veteran is described as a person who has served in the armed forces. To be eligible for this \$2,000 exemption, a Veteran must have served during an active period of war, received an honorable discharge, and have his/her discharge form (DD214) on file with the Town Clerk prior to October 1.

The recognized periods of war are as follows:

NOTE: Service of 90 or more cumulative (as opposed to consecutive) days is required ¹

<u>Conflict</u>	<u>Beginning Date</u>	<u>Ending Date</u>
Spanish-American War	April 21, 1898	July 4, 1902
Spanish-American War – Moro Province	April 21, 1898	July 15, 1903 ²
Mexican Border Period	March 10, 1916	April 6, 1917
World War I	April 6, 1917	November 11, 1918
World War I - Russia	April 6, 1917	April 1, 1920 ³
World War II	December 7, 1941	December 31, 1946 ⁴
Korean Conflict	June 27, 1950	January 31, 1955
Vietnam Era	February 28, 1961	July 1, 1975
Lebanon	July 1, 1958	November 1, 1958 or September 29, 1982 to March 30, 1984 ⁵
Invasion of Grenada	October 25, 1983	December 15, 1983 ⁵
Operation Earnest Will	July 24, 1987	August 1, 1990 ⁵
Invasion of Panama	December 20, 1989	January 31, 1990 ⁵
Persian Gulf War	After August 2, 1990	⁶

¹ Any member of the armed forces in service in time of war and who is still in the service and, as a result, has not as yet received a discharge and any veteran who recorded proof of honorable discharge in any Connecticut town on or before October 1, 1977 is eligible for the exemption under §12-81(19) **even if the duration of service is or was less than 90 days**. See also Footnote 5, below.

² The Spanish American War includes the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion and service in the Moro Province, for which the ending date is eleven days later than the ending date for the Spanish American War.

³ The ending date for service in Russia by a person serving with the United State military forces during World War I differs from the ending date for all service during that war in all other arenas.

⁴ Pursuant to §12-86, twelve o'clock midnight on December 31, 1947 is the World War II termination date for purposes of granting a property tax exemption.

⁵ A person must have served in a combat or combat support role for the duration of a period of war lasting less than 90 days (i.e., the Invasions of Grenada and Panama) in order to qualify for a property tax exemption. A person must also have served in a combat or combat support role in Lebanon during the specified dates, in order to qualify for an exemption. An Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to such individuals. Prior to June 8, 2009, the dates for service in Operation Earnest Will were February 1, 1987 to July 23, 1987; a person who established exemption eligibility on or before September 30, 2008 due to serving during those dates for an exemption on or before October 1, 2008 must have received An Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

⁶Although referred to as the Persian Gulf War, service in the Persian Gulf is not required, nor is service in a combat or combat support role.

Additional State Veterans Exemption

No Income Requirement Filing Status: NONE

Any Veteran or Disabled Veteran, who is eligible for the regular Veteran or Disabled Veteran exemption previously described, and that is NOT eligible for the income based Additional State Veterans exemption per Income Requirements, is eligible for an additional exemption equivalent to 1/2 the amount of the original exemption. The Additional Veterans exemptions for this section are listed below:

Veterans	\$ 1,000
Disabled Veterans 10% - 25%	\$ 1,500
26%-50%	\$ 2,000
51%-75%	\$ 2,500
76% - 100%	\$ 3,000
Over 65 yrs (any percentage)	\$ 3,000
Severe Disability (paraplegia)	\$10,000
Loss of Limb	\$ 5,000
Killed in Action (survivor)	\$ 3,000
Surviving Parent	\$ 1,000
Surviving Spouse	\$ 1,000

Additional State Veterans Exemption

INCOME REQUIREMENT

Filing Status: NONE

Any Veteran or Disabled Veteran, who is eligible for either the regular Veteran or Disabled Veteran exemption previously mentioned, and whose adjusted gross income meet certain guidelines, may be eligible for an additional exemption equivalent to twice the amount of the original exemption. For this year, the income requirements are as follows:

Single Veteran	\$35,200
Married Veteran (combined incomes)	\$42,900

The additional Veterans and Disabled Veteran exemptions are listed below:

Veteran	\$ 4,000
Disabled Veteran 10% - 25%	\$ 6,000
26% - 50%	\$ 8,000
51% - 75%	\$10,000
76% - 100%	\$12,000
Over 65 yrs (any percentage)	\$12,000
Severe Disability (paraplegia)	\$40,000
Loss of Limb	\$20,000

Disability Exemption Filing Status: ONCE

An individual who receives a disability pension from the Social Security Administration and has been designated as being disabled by the SSA, is eligible for a \$1,000 exemption. To qualify, an individual must present proof from the SSA as to the extent of the disability prior to October 1.

Handicapped Exemption Filing Status: Annual

Any owner of a motor vehicle that has been specially equipped to accommodate a handicapped driver or passenger, may be eligible for a handicapped exemption. This exemption would include, but is not limited to, vehicles equipped with hand - controls for the brake and/or accelerator and a wheelchair lift.

To be eligible for this exemption, the vehicle must be inspected and approved by the Assessor. Please call 860-285-1818 to schedule an appointment.

This exemption abates the motor vehicle tax in full.

In - Service Exemption Filing Status: Annual

Any member of the armed forces who is currently on active duty or a member of the National Guard or Reserves may be eligible to have one passenger motor vehicle exempt from property tax. To qualify, the individual must submit an ANNUAL letter from his/her commanding officer stating that the individual is on active duty or a member of the National Guard or Reserves.

Local Veterans Exemption

INCOME REQUIREMENT

Filing Status: Every 2 years

Any Veteran who is eligible for the regular Veterans exemption or the Disabled Veterans exemption previously described, may be eligible for an additional \$2,000 exemption if their adjusted gross income meets certain guidelines. The income guidelines for this year are listed below:

Single Veteran	\$35,200
Married Veteran (combined incomes)	\$42,900

To qualify, an individual must file an application with the Assessor prior to October 1.

Blind Exemption Filing Status: **ONCE**

Any individual who presents verification from a physician that he/she is considered to be legally blind, may be eligible for a \$3,000 exemption. This verification must be presented to the Assessor prior to October 1.

Local Blind Exemption

INCOME REQUIREMENT Filing Status: **Every 2 years**

Any individual who is eligible for the regular Blind exemption previously mentioned, may be eligible for an additional \$2,000 exemption if his/her adjusted gross income meets certain guidelines. The income guidelines for this year are listed below:

Single Individual	\$35,200
Married (combined income)	\$42,900

To qualify for this exemption, an individual must have an application completed by Oct. 1.

Disabled Veterans Exemption Filing Status: NONE

A Veteran who is entitled to a disability pension as determined by the Veterans Administration, whether he/she has served during an active period of war or not, is eligible for a Disabled Veterans Exemption. The exemption is based on the percentage of disability as determined by the Veterans Administration. The breakdown of Veterans Disability Exemptions are as follows:

10% - 25%	\$ 3,000
26% - 50%	\$ 4,000
51% - 75%	\$ 5,000
76% - 100%	\$ 6,000
over 65 yrs (any percentage)	\$ 6,000
Severe Disability (paraplegia)	\$20,000
Loss of Limb	\$10,000
Killed in Action (survivor)	\$ 6,000
Surviving Parent	\$ 2,000
Surviving Spouse	\$ 2,000

Volunteer Emergency Service Exemption

Filing Status: Annual

Any member of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department and/ or the Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Association, who reside and pay property tax in the Town of Windsor, may be eligible for an exemption off of their assessment. In order to be eligible, the member must be certified by the Chief of the respective department. Depending on their personal service record, the exemption offered equates to a tax credit of between \$250 to a maximum of \$1,000. For more specific information regarding this exemption, please contact the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department or the Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Association.

Property Rehab Exemption

Filing Status: Once

Any property owner who improves or rehabilitates their property may be eligible for an incremental deferment of any increase to their property assessment as a result of such improvement or rehabilitation for a period of 7 years. In order to qualify for this exemption, the improvement or rehabilitation must be done to a residential property that is at least 25 years old and, as a result of such improvement or rehabilitation, increases the assessment of the property by at least 10%. For non-residential properties, the property must be at least 40 years old and the improvement or rehabilitation must increase the property assessment by at least 15%. The deferred assessment schedule runs from 100% in the first year down to 7% in the seventh year. For more information regarding this exemption program, property owners are urged to call the Assessors' office for specific details.