

RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION

DESCRIPTION

Each year, at the option of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, an exemption of not more than 30% of the average assessed value of all Class One, residential parcels, may be applied to residential parcels that are the principal residence of taxpayer as of January first. The intent of the exemption is to promote owner occupancy.

The residential exemption is a dollar amount of value that is exempt from taxation. For example, in 2011, a home valued at \$400,000 and eligible for a residential exemption would have had \$136,744 deducted from the property's assessed value. This saved qualified homeowners \$1,738.02 on their tax bill.

The residential exemption is in addition to any other exemption that a taxpayer may be entitled. In no event, however, may any parcel of real estate be assessed for less than ten percent of its fair cash value. This residential exemption credit is applied to the third quarter tax bill. Property owners who do not receive such a credit on this bill and believe they qualify, must file a Residential Exemption application with the Assessors' Office.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FY 2012?

A taxpayer who owns and occupies residential property as their principal residence as of January 1, 2011 may apply for this exemption.

For the purpose of this exemption, **the principal residence is the address from which your Massachusetts STATE Income tax return is filed.** To verify eligibility, a copy of your 2010 STATE return is **required.** You may remove your Social Security number and any financial information that is on your return.

An individual owner may qualify for a residential exemption on ONE parcel only.

WHAT FORMS ARE REQUIRED?

The Residential Exemption Application and required documentation list is available in the Assessors' Office or may be **downloaded** from the forms library site on the city Assessors' Department page.

WHEN MUST AN APPLICATION BE FILED?

An application for residential exemption must be filed with the Assessors Office within three months of the mailing of the third quarter (actual) tax bill.

APPEAL OF THE ASSESSORS' DECISION

You may appeal the disposition of your application. The disposition notice will provide you with further information about the appeal procedure and deadline.

*For additional information, please contact the Assessors Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 3100.

FY2012 Residential Exemption Documentation
(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

To qualify for a FY2012 residential exemption, you had to own and occupy your property on **January 1, 2011**. To confirm your residency, you **must submit** a copy of your **calendar year 2010 State of Massachusetts Resident income tax return, (not Federal)**. The form must be a copy of the return filed showing your name and the address in question on the front side and your signature or your accountant's signature at the bottom of the page. You do not need to submit copies of other schedules and should feel free to withhold your financial information and social security number. If you filed electronically or filed an extension, you should be able to provide us with a copy of same.

In addition to your required tax return, you **must submit at least one (1) of the following documents. Please pay close attention to the types of acceptable documentation and the dates of the documentation noted in bold**. Failure to submit the right documentation will delay the processing of your application. All submitted documents including your tax return are **not** open to public inspection.

-Automobile registration showing your name at the address in question with an effective date prior to **01/01/11**.

-Telephone bill addressed to you at the property in question covering the period that includes **01/01/11**.

-Other utility bill, (gas, electric, or cable television) addressed to you at the property in question covering the period that includes **01/01/11**. **Note that utility bills must show where the bill was sent not just where the service is provided**, (you may need to contact your utility company). Water and property tax bills are not acceptable.

-Verification of voter registration showing your name and the property in question with a date prior to **01/01/11**.

-Checking statement, (not mortgage statement) addressed to you at the property in question covering the period that includes **01/01/11**. Feel free to withhold financial information.

Please note that the Somerville Board of Assessors reserves the right to require additional documentation.

**RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Somerville Assessors Office, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
NAME OF CITY OR TOWN

**APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION
MUST BE FILED WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE THE TAX BILL WAS SENT.**

The undersigned being aggrieved by the failure to receive a residential exemption on real estate situated at: _____ for fiscal year: _____ hereby applies for such an exemption. Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Name(s) of record owner(s): _____

Name of applicant: _____

Was the real estate owned and occupied by you as your principal residence on January 1, _____?

YES _____ NO _____ Date Acquired : _____ How Acquired _____

(by purchase, inheritance, foreclosure, gift, etc)

Do you own or partially own any other real estate? YES _____ NO _____ If yes, please list address

Have you ever received a residential exemption in any other city or town? If so, give the address of the property and the year(s) in which the exemption was received. _____

Will you receive or have you applied for a residential exemption in any other city or town for the fiscal years to which this application relates? _____ If so, give the name of the city or town and the address of the property to which the exemption relates. _____

Signing this form under the penalties of perjury has the legal effect of swearing under oath to the truthfulness of the information contained herein: All items on this form must be completed. In addition to other sanctions provided by law, intentional misrepresentation of facts in this application may result in cancellation of this exemption.

SUBSCRIBED THIS _____ day of _____, _____ UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

THE FILING OF THIS APPLICATION DOES NOT STAY THE COLLECTION OF YOUR TAX.

(OVER)

APPLICATION FOR
RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION
FROM REAL ESTATE ATX
CITY OF SOMERVILLE
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
(back page)

FOR ASSESSORS' RECORDS

Notice _____ Hearing _____
Sent ____ / ____ / ____ for hearing: ____ / ____ / ____ held: ____ / ____ / ____ with: _____

Exemption: _____ in previous year \$ _____ Page: _____ Line: _____
(ALLOWED OR DISALLOWED)

EXEMPTION DISALLOWED: _____

EXEMPTION ALLOWED _____ (REASON)
TO THE EXTENT OF \$ _____ ON THE TOTAL
VALUATION OF \$ _____

Under General Laws, Chapter 59, §. 5C

_____. BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ _____ of the City of Somerville

