



# New York State Assessors Association

116 Salina Street, Suite 8 ~ Liverpool, NY 13088

Phone: (315) 706-3424 E-mail: [admin@nyassessor.org](mailto:admin@nyassessor.org) Web: [www.nyassessor.org](http://www.nyassessor.org)

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October 29, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Real Property Tax Law, Section 467, gives local governments and public school districts the option of granting a reduction in the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying senior citizens. To qualify, seniors must be 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limitations and other requirements. Local governments and school districts in New York State can also opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying persons with disabilities pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, Section 459(c). To qualify, persons with disabilities generally must have certain documented evidence of their disability and meet certain income limitations and other requirements.

Eligible property owners must timely file an annual renewal application in the assessor's office to continue the exemption. The time to file a renewal application is now. To protect the most vulnerable populations, persons 65 years of age and older and persons with disabilities, the New York State Assessors Association (NYSAA) is respectfully requesting the Governor take action. It is especially important to protect the people at increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19. The best way to protect this population is to limit their interactions with other people as much as possible.

Let's eliminate the need for these people to come to local municipal offices to renew their exemptions. NYSAA supports an Executive Order to suspend the requirement to renew the senior citizens age and disability exemptions for one year by local option.

NYSAA supports a coordinated approach to ensure public health and the safety of New York State's property owners. The Association will embark on a consistent approach to avoid confusion and inefficiencies so that senior citizens and persons with disabilities maximize their benefits all while staying safe.

Sincerely,

Warren J. Wheeler, IAO, Executive Director  
New York State Assessors Association

... Affiliated with the ...

*Institute of Assessing Officers ~ International Association of Assessing Officers ~  
Northeastern Regional Association of Assessing Officers*