



Department of Assessment

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: County Votes to Increase Alternative Veterans Exemption Ceiling Limits

At the September 6th Tompkins County Legislature meeting, a new Local Law was enacted that increased the exemption limit scale for the Alternative Veterans Exemption.

Previous Scale

Basic – 15% or \$9,000 (whichever is lower)
Wartime – Additional 10% or \$6,000 (whichever is lower)
Disabled - ½ of disability rating or \$30,000 (whichever is lower)

New Scale

Basic - 15% of \$15,000 (whichever is lower)
Wartime - Additional 10% or \$10,000 (whichever is lower)
Disabled - ½ of disability rating or \$50,000 (whichever is lower)

The Veterans Exemption can be offered in one of two ways - Eligible Funds (Existing) or Alternative.

The Eligible Funds Exemption only allows for an exemption off of municipal taxes (it does not apply to school taxes) based upon the amount of "mustering out" pay a veteran used to purchase their property up to a limit of \$5,000. There are currently still 5 municipalities (total of 16 town and villages) within Tompkins County that are still offering this exemption.

The Alternative Veterans Exemption allows for an exemption off of municipal taxes (it does not apply to school taxes) if the veteran served during specific times of conflict with additional exemption available if they served in the combat theater or if they were disabled as a result of service. Out of the 11 municipalities within Tompkins County offering the Alternative Veterans Exemption; 1 has a base ceiling limit at \$6,000, 8 have ceiling limit of \$12,000, 1 has a ceiling limit of \$15,000 and lastly 1 has a ceiling limit of \$18,000.

More information on exemptions and other topics regarding assessment administration is available on the web at www.tompkins-co.org/assessment or the NY State Office of Real Property Services web site at <http://www.orps.state.ny.us>

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