



YOUR FY 2016 TAX RATE

Every year your tax rate changes. We want you to understand these changes. It is affected by how much is appropriated at Town Meeting, the value of existing property in town, new growth, and any overrides, capital or debt exclusions the voters approved.

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Education	\$ 6.46	\$ 6.03	\$ 6.39	\$ 6.51	\$ 7.00
General Fund	\$ 4.95	\$ 6.04	\$ 5.91	\$ 6.35	\$ 6.72
Excluded Debt: Education	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.28
Excluded Debt: General Fund	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.29
Total Tax Rate	\$ 12.28	\$ 12.77	\$ 13.15	\$ 13.67	\$ 14.29



PRESENT DEBT EXCLUSIONS:

(FY 2016 Payments of \$775,730 for \$0.57 of the Tax Rate)



Education

Wire Village School \$226,019
 Bay Path Voc-Tech \$119,130



General Fund

Town Hall Renovations \$127,930
 Fire Ladder Truck \$157,051
 Sibley Farms: \$145,600

What does this mean to me?

The Fiscal 2016 budgets result in a tax rate of \$14.29 per thousand of valuation. The average single family house valued at \$200,000 will incur a tax of \$2,858 annually. Of this amount, \$114.00 is for voter-approved debt exclusions.

Fiscal 2016 Seniors

Are you 62 years of age or older? Do you need help paying your property taxes? Consider the Senior Community Services Program. The Council on Aging is looking for seniors who are interested in volunteer service at a Town department, board, agency or program. Participants are paid an hourly wage of \$9.00 which is earned as a credit against their property taxes up to \$1,000.00. Applications can be obtained at the Town Hall, Senior Center or on the Town website www.spencerma.gov. Certain income eligibility requirements apply.

Active Guards or Reservist – Please Read

Special Act Exemption.....Military Tax Abatement Program Town of Spencer Guards or Reservist – If you are an Active Guard or Reservist serving overseas and own property in Spencer you may be entitled to a Real Estate tax exemption. For more information please contact the Assessors' office @ 508-885-7500 x-165.

Are You Eligible For A Lower Tax Bill?

There are a number of exemption programs available in Massachusetts. A tax exemption releases an individual from the requirements to pay all or a portion of the taxes assessed on their personal or real property. The following are just a few of the exemption programs you may be eligible for:

Clause 41C - Elderly Exemption

1. Own and occupy the real estate 5 years.
2. Age 70 by July 1st.
3. Income from all sources (minus social security allowance) must be less than \$13,000 if single or \$15,000 if married.
4. Assets must be less than \$28,000 if single or \$30,000 if married (value of domicile including up to 3 units of dwelling is exempt).

Documents Needed:

1. Birth certificate (1st time applicant)
2. Proof of income: pensions, interest & dividends, social security, rent, etc.
3. Proof of all assets: bank books, checking accounts, CD's, 401K's, stocks & bonds, etc.

(Copies of Federal & State Income Tax Returns may be requested to verify income)

Clause 17D - Surviving Spouse & Persons over 70 Not Eligible for Clause 41C

Assets cannot exceed \$40,000 (income is not considered).

Documents Needed:

1. Death certificate if surviving spouse
2. Amount of mortgage balance
3. Assets listed under Clause 41C
4. Birth certificate (1st time application over 70)
5. Insurance received, amount & company
6. Owner-occupied for 10 years

Clause 37A - Blind

Must be "legally blind" and annually provide a "Certificate of Blindness".

Documents Needed: Certificate of Blindness from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Clause 22 - Veteran

Must have war time service connected disability of at least 10%.

Documents Needed: Proof of Certification from the Veteran's Administration and be honorably discharged from the service.