

**Alternative Basic Veterans' Exemption
RPTL 458-a**

Information Presentation
October 15, 2015

What is the Alternative Property Tax Exemption?

- ❖ RPTL 458-a signed into law in 1984.
- ❖ Based on a percentage of assessed value subject to maximum levels of exemption.
- ❖ School districts allowed to offer RPTL 458-a as of December 18, 2013.
- ❖ Any action by the school district requires a public hearing. A second hearing is required for any limit other than the base limit.
- ❖ School districts may rescind or modify the exemptions once they are approved.

Who is eligible for the tax exemption?

- ❖ Honorably discharged veterans.
- ❖ Certain family members of veterans, including:
 - Spouse
 - Un-remarried surviving spouse
 - Gold Star Parent
- ❖ Limited to veterans who served during defined periods of war or under certain conditions.

How is the exemption calculated?

- ❖ State equalization rate X chosen limit.
- ❖ Seventeen sets of chosen limits available.
- ❖ Recalculated each year.
- ❖ Lesser of chosen limit or the equalized limit.
- ❖ No recalculation necessary if equalization rate is over 100 (100% of exemption).

What are the available exemption limits?

- ❖ Basic max is \$12,000, \$8,000 and \$40,000.
- ❖ Reduced maximums range from \$6,000 to \$30,000 per property. Increased maximums range from \$15,000 to \$120,000.
- ❖ "High Appreciation Municipality Enhanced" reductions range from \$39,000 to \$180,000 per property.

How much would the exemption reduce school taxes for veterans?

Exemption	Basic Exemption	Estimated Savings for Veterans
War Veteran	\$12,000	\$317
Combat Zone	Additional \$8,000	Additional \$211
Disabled Veterans	Additional \$40,000	Additional \$1,055

Estimated Annual Increase to Residents
(Estimated increases for non-veteran home owners range from
.75% to 1% depending on exemption)

Value of Home	Westchester	Putnam
\$250,000	\$56	\$56
\$350,000	\$78	\$79
\$500,000	\$111	\$113