

[REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS]



Every year at this time I provide information on **various tax programs** offered to seniors by our state and federal government. Please contact my office with any questions or for any additional information.

State Programs

• **Senior Circuit Breaker:** The Senior Circuit Tax Credit allows income-eligible seniors to receive a tax credit for property taxes they have paid during the tax year. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/rephogan16>.

• **Senior Property Tax Work-Off:** This program allows seniors to volunteer with their local towns in exchange for a reduction in property taxes. You can apply to this program through your local Council on Aging (COA).

• **Tax Deferral:** Seniors can defer all (or some) of their taxes at a rate of 5% interest. To qualify you must have lived in Massachusetts for 10 years, owned a home for the last 5 years, and your annual income cannot exceed \$40,000.

- **Clause 17D:** This program allows a tax break of \$208.39. To qualify seniors must be over 70 years old and have owned and lived in their home for 5 years.
- **Clause 22:** Disabled veterans and their spouses may qualify for this tax break of \$400 to \$1,000. It requires a certificate stating war-related disability and honorable discharge.

Federal Programs

- **Standard Deduction for Seniors:** If you don't itemize deductions, you may still be eligible for a higher standard deduction amount if you and/or your spouse are 65 years or older.
- **Publication 554:** This is a booklet that explains all of the benefits available to seniors at the federal level and what the eligibilities are. It is available at this link <http://tinyurl.com/RepHogan2> or call Jordan at 617-722-2130.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide: This program assists individuals ages 60+ with tax services and helps ensure they receive applicable tax credits and deductions. Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the IRS. Please call 888-687-2277 for a location near you or visit <http://tinyurl.com/rephoganaarp>.

For any brochures or questions, please contact my office at 617-722-2130 or email me at kate.hogan@mahouse.gov.

Tips from Kate: Smoke Alarm Lifespan

How long has it been since you replaced your smoke alarms - not just the batteries? Major manufacturers of smoke alarms suggest they have a service life of ten years and should then be replaced. There is a label on the alarm with the date of manufacture. If you don't know how old they are, it is best to install new ones! For more information, contact the Maynard Fire Department at 978-897-1015 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/khsmokealarms>.

Stay Tuned: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

I am pleased to work with the Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, our local Councils on Aging, and senior service organizations to create a regional support group for grandparents raising grandchildren. The support group will meet to empower parenting grandparents with information and connections to help support them and their families. The support group will begin in February; Please contact the Maynard Council on Aging at 978-897-1009 or the Hudson Council on Aging at 978-568-9638 for more information.

Hogan's Office Hours

- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, February 11th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton, MA.
- **Hudson Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, February 18th from 6-7 p.m. at the Hudson Public Library, 3 Washington St, Hudson, MA.

Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend office hours and have an issue or concern, please call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment with me.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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February 2016

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