

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



I find it important this time of year to highlight tax programs designed specifically for seniors and retirees. They can help you take advantage of deductibles and exemptions you might not have known about and provide some relief – both for your wallet and your state of mind. It can seem like there is a lot to navigate and that's why the state is actively working to make the process as simple as possible.

These are some of the tax programs local seniors have found most worthwhile and useful:

Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit: Whether you rent or own your primary residence in Massachusetts, income-eligible seniors can receive meaningful relief on their property taxes with a credit calculated based on your real estate tax bill. If you would like to see whether you meet the eligibility requirements or watch a helpful video tutorial, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-circuit-breaker-credit>

Senior Property Tax Work-Off: There is another interesting pathway to tax relief for civic-minded seniors. Here's how it works. The Property Tax Work-Off program invites seniors to volunteer in their community in exchange for a break in their property taxes. This program is popular, so contact the Maynard Council on Aging (COA) at (978) 897-1009 to learn more about applying.

Property Tax Exemptions: Seniors may also qualify for local exemptions to their property taxes if they meet specific ownership, residency, income, and asset requirements. **Clause 41** is the basic exemption for residents 65 and older; **Clause 17** provides for a smaller benefit, but with less stringent eligibility requirements. There can be some local variations, so reach out to the COA for guidance about the exemption for which you might be able to apply.

Publication 554: This is a booklet that explains all the benefits available to seniors at the federal level and what the eligibilities are. If you would like a copy, call Rep. Hogan's District Director Karen Freker at (978)-897-1333.

There are a wide-range of additional personal exemptions you might be able to claim if you meet certain eligibility requirements. You can reach out to the COA for help getting started; for more detailed information on these exemptions and an application call the Maynard Assessor's Office at (978) 897-1304.

I hope you find these resources helpful as you begin preparing for tax season. Please do not hesitate to contact my office or the COA if you need assistance taking advantage of some of these programs.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Stow Office Hours** will be held on Tuesday, February 19th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Randall Library, 19 Crescent Street, Stow
- **Maynard Office Hours** will be held on Friday, March 15th from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason Street, Maynard

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. In addition to Rep. Hogan's office hours, her staff is available in the District Office at Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (*Closed Holiday Mondays*)

Save The Date for my annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

March 8, 2019

This March I will host my 9th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Maynard Country Club to support the work of The Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley. I hope to see you there – Erin Go Bragh!

February 2019

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

Kate Hogan —

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

State House, Room 130, Boston, MA, 02133 / Phone: 617-722-2130/ Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov

District Office: Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754/Phone: 978-897-1333