

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



As we turned the calendar page to 2020 last month, you likely saw across the evening news and morning headlines a flurry of discussion about this year's namesake: this is the year for seeing in 20/20. Look up synonyms for 20/20 vision and here is what you might find: Experience. Clear-sightedness. Clarity. It is important to me as your state representative to connect my senior constituents to the tools and resources they need to access state programs with, if not 20/20 vision, something not far from

it – confidence.

As many of you embark on filing your annual tax returns, I wanted to outline key supports that can bring wisdom and foresight to what I know can be a challenging process. This newsletter is a one-stop shop for information on some of our community's most-accessed – and asked about – tax relief programs for seniors. Keep it on hand for 20/20 vision on cost savings and assistance that might be available to you.

- **Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit:** If you rent or own your primary residence in the Commonwealth, you might be able to claim a substantial credit on your income taxes through a state relief program called the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The credit is available to income-eligible seniors and it is based on the amount you pay in real estate taxes. Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-circuit-breaker-credit>
- **65+ Tax Exemption:** This is another straightforward exemption for state residents over the age of 65. Simply enter the number of individuals in your household over the age of 65 on your tax form and you will be eligible for an exemption of up to \$700.
- **Senior Property Tax Work-Off:** If you are interested in lending a hand in town, you might be eligible to participate in a program that exchanges volunteer hours for a property tax credit up to \$1,500. Since this is a popular program, be sure to contact the Maynard Council on Aging (COA) at (978) 897-1009 to see if new applications are available.
- **Publication 554:** This booklet explains all the benefits available to seniors at the federal level. Call Rep. Hogan's District Director Karen Freker at (978) 897-1333 for a copy.
- **Additional exemptions for Maynard seniors:** For more detailed information on the local exemptions that might

Join me on March 13th for my annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

This **March 13th**, I will host my **10th 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!

be available to you based on your age, income, and residency, reach out to the Maynard Assessor's Office at (978) 897-1304.

Speaking of 20/20, here is a quick, but important tip for the year ahead: When signing and dating legal documents in 2020, be sure to write out the full year rather than using 20 as an abbreviation. Law enforcement recommend that this simple move is an important safeguard against potential fraud, since 20 can be easily changed to other years – 2/14/20, for example, becoming 2/14/2018. What does this mean for you? Instead of writing 2/14/20, write 2/14/2020 instead.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Stow Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, February 13th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Randall Library, 19 Crescent Street, Stow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hogan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

If you are unable to attend office hours, please call the State House at (617) 722-2199 to schedule an appointment. Staff is also available at the District Office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

February 2020

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Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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