

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How am I notified of my property tax assessment?

A: *Each year, on or before February 1st, all property owners will be forwarded a postcard containing the updated assessed value for that tax year. If you have not received your postcard by February 15th, please feel free to contact our office. Also, please note that the assessed value represents the market value of the property as of October 1st of the pre-tax year. For example, your 2014 assessment reflects the value of your property as of October 2, 2013 using sales from October 1, 2012 through October 1, 2013 to formulate the value.*

Q: Do I need to let the Field Inspector in to inspect the interior of my home?

A: *If we are unable to inspect the interior of your home, we will assume updates have been completed to kitchens and bathrooms and that basements have been finished.*

Q: What if I do not agree with my assessment?

A: *Any taxpayer contemplating filing an appeal is encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office to discuss their assessment, review property data and closed sales. Many issues can be resolved during such a review; however, if you decide to pursue an appeal with the Somerset County Tax Board, forms and instructions can be obtained using the link below. Please be advised that closed comparable sales are required for the defense of an appeal.*

Petition of Appeal (Form A-1)

http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/petappl.pdf

Mailing Addresses:

**Somerset County Board of Taxation
27 Warren Street, 4th Floor
Somerville, NJ 08876
Phone: 908.541.5713 Fax: 908.685.0956**

**Bernards Township Assessor
1 Collyer Lane
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: 908.204.3082 Fax: 908.766.1644**

Q: What deductions and/or rebates are available to residents?

A: *The following programs are available for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons and Veterans:*

Annual Property Tax Deduction for Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes for homeowners age 65 or older or disabled who meet certain income and residency requirements. If you are eligible, please file the appropriate form ([Claim Form](#)) with the Tax Collector.

Annual Deduction for Veterans: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from taxes due on the real or personal property of qualified war veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses/surviving civil union partners/surviving domestic partners. If you are eligible, please file the appropriate form ([Claim Form](#)) with the Tax Collector.

Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans: Full exemption from property taxes on a principal residence for certain totally and permanently disabled war veterans and their unmarried surviving spouses/surviving civil union partners/surviving domestic partners. Unmarried surviving spouses/surviving civil union partners/surviving domestic partners of servicepersons who died on wartime active duty may also qualify. If you are eligible, please file the appropriate form ([Claim Form](#)) with the Tax Collector.

Q: How is Farmland taxed?

A: *The New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act of 1964 permits farmland and woodland actively devoted to an agricultural or horticultural use to be assessed at its productivity value. More information and related forms can be found using the links below:*

Farmland Assessment Guide <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf>

Farmland Assessment Application (FA-1) http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/FA1.pdf

Woodland Data Form (WD-1) http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/wd1.pdf

Q: What forms are required for Nonprofit (Educational, Religious and Charitable) Organizations?

A: *Churches and other nonprofit organizations may qualify for an exemption based on their use of property. Links for the applicable forms and instructions are found below:*

Initial Statement of Organization Claiming Property Tax Exemption http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/initialstment.pdf

Further Statement of Organization Claiming Property Tax Exemption http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/further.pdf