



Town of Danvers

Office of the Town Manager

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April 7, 2020

Danvers taxpayers,

As you are well aware, we are living in unprecedented times. The ongoing public health crisis has put significant strain on our ability to conduct public business efficiently as well as a financial strain on many of our residents. In response to challenges, your local leaders have been working collaboratively with the Governor, the State Legislature, and other communities in Massachusetts to provide some relief to residents impacted by COVID-19.

This past Friday, the Governor signed into law Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which included important relief for Massachusetts taxpayers in several areas identified by local officials.

The information on the following page details some of the key areas this bill addressed. They include extensions for claiming exemptions and deferrals as well as a commitment to waive penalties and interest on certain overdue tax payments for a period of time.

It is my hope that these efforts will ease at least some of the burden residents are experiencing during these trying times. If you have any questions on the information provided, please visit www.danversma.gov or call (978) 777-0001.

Sincerely,

Steve Bartha
Danvers Town Manager

Town of Danvers

Important information Regarding Your Tax Bill

Under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19,” Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the Town of Danvers has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. See below.

1. **The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your previously mailed tax bill is May 1, 2020.
2. **The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for applications on your previously mailed tax bill is April 1, 2020.

This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions under clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2 and 17D (seniors, surviving spouses, minor children of deceased parent); 18 (financial hardship – activated military, age and infirmity); 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41, 41B, 41C and 41C1/2 (seniors); 42 and 43 (surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer killed in line of duty); 52 (certain eligible seniors); 53 (certain eligible properties with septic systems); 56 (National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries); and 57 (local option tax rebates). This extension also automatically applies to deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

3. The Town has also voted to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments **with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020**. This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when such bills are paid late but paid on or before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills due before March 10, 2020 or to bills paid after June 30.

NOTE - If the municipal offices are closed on the June 1, 2020 extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus or the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the governor on March 10, 2020, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are not extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10(b) of the Act.)

Additional information on tax payments and exemptions, including options for making online payments, can be found by visiting www.danversma.gov or by calling (978) 777-0001. For your convenience, you can also utilize the Town Hall drop box located at 1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923.