

Cold War Veteran Exemption

Ownership requirements:

The property must be the primary residence and owned by a Cold War veteran, the spouse of a Cold War veteran, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a deceased Cold War veteran. Where property is owned by more than one qualified owner, the exemption to which each is entitled may be combined. Where a veteran is also the unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran, that person may also receive any exemption to which the deceased spouse was entitled. If the title has been transferred to a trust, the property is eligible for the exemption if the trustee or trust beneficiary otherwise qualifies.

A *Cold War veteran* is defined as:

A person, male or female, who served on active duty in the United States armed forces between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991, and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions.

The percentage exemption that applies to the assessed value of a qualifying property depends on both the nature of the veteran's service and the local law adopted by the taxing jurisdiction. Veterans who were on active duty during the Cold War period are eligible for a basic exemption of one of two benefit levels, as allowed by local option: (1) 10% exemption, not to exceed a basic state maximum of \$8,000 or the product of \$8,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, special equalization rate or, in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less or (2) 15% exemption, not to exceed a basic state maximum of \$12,000 or the product of \$12,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, special equalization rate or, in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less. Cold War veterans who sustained service-connected disabilities, as evidenced by receipt of a disability compensation rating from the Veteran's Administration or the Department of Defense, are eligible for an additional exemption, equal to one-half of their disability rating, not to exceed a basic state maximum of \$40,000 or the product of \$40,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate or, in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.

Application forms and instructions

To apply or to change a disability rating, file the applicable form with the Assessor's office:

First time applicants: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp458b_fill_in.pdf

Instructions for application: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp458bi.pdf

Renewal Application: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp458bdis_fill_in.pdf

Application deadline:

March 1st is the deadline to file your forms with the Assessor's office. If the 1st lands on a Saturday or Sunday we will accept the form on the following Monday.