

### **Clause 22C - \$3,087 (\$3,000 + COLA)**

This exemption is available to veterans (or their surviving spouse) who (1) suffered total disability in a service-related incident and (2) who received assistance in acquiring “specially adapted housing” which they own and occupy as their domicile, and their spouses or surviving spouses.

### **Clause 22D – Full, with a cap of \$2,500 after 5 years**

This exemption is available to surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of service members or guardsmen who died from injury or disease due to being in a combat zone, or who are missing in action and presumed dead due to combat.

### **Clause 22E - \$2,058 (\$2,000 + COLA)**

This exemption is available to veterans (or their surviving spouse) who suffered total disability in a service-related incident and are incapable of working.

### **Clause 22Z – Total Exemption**

Paraplegic veterans, those with service-related injuries as determined by the US Dept of Veterans Affairs, or their surviving spouses, are eligible for total exemption on their property taxes. The surviving spouse may keep the exemption upon remarriage.

### **Wartime Service**

Wartime service is service performed by a “World War I veteran”, a “World War II veteran”, a “Korean veteran”, a “Vietnam veteran”, a Lebanese peace-keeping force veteran”, a “Grenada rescue mission veteran”, a “Panamanian intervention force veteran”, a “Persian Gulf veteran”, or a member of the

“WAAC.” The dates for each qualifying military action are in G.L. Ch. 4 §7(43).

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Applications must be filed annually with the Board of Assessors by April 1. A current Certificate of Eligibility from the Veteran Affairs Office must be included.

If you filed in a previous year, an application will be automatically mailed to you.

For new applications, contact us at 781-431-1019 x2272 or download the form on our website at [www.wellesleyma.gov/taxrelief](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/taxrelief).

**Please note:** filing an application does not mean you can postpone payment of your tax.

*For more information:*

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

525 Washington St.  
Wellesley, MA 02482  
(781) 431-1019 ext.2272  
[www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov)

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

7/2025

# **FY26 QUALIFYING VETERANS**

**Statutory  
Exemption**

*Taxpayer Information Guide*



**Town of Wellesley  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

## WHAT IS AN EXEMPTION?

An exemption is a release from the obligation to pay all or a portion of the taxes assessed on a parcel of property.

The definition of “Veteran” found in G. L. Ch.4 §7, Clause 43 has been expanded to include several categories of persons who do not have wartime service, i.e., they served during peacetime. But a change in the definition alone would not have made peacetime veterans who came within the new definition eligible since the exemption statutes themselves expressly require wartime service. Those provisions have been deleted with Ch. 352 §§24 and 25 of the Acts of 2004 this has made peace time veterans eligible.

To be eligible to receive these benefit(s) the veteran will need to provide a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) from the Department of Veterans Affairs) stating the loss is service related.

The Clause 22\* exemptions provide assistance to veterans who meet the disability and residency requirements. Please note that if you are an elderly veteran and have a limited income, you may be eligible for a greater amount of assistance under Clause 41C.

## HERO Act

Clause 22I and 22J were accepted at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting to increase certain Veteran Exemptions by a Consumer Price Index (COLA) as determined by the Commission of Revenue and to increase the amount of eligible veteran exemptions by 100% of the personal exemption amount allowed by law.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

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\*Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Sect. 5, Clause 22

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Veterans must (1) have been domiciled in Massachusetts at least six consecutive months before entering the service, or (2) have been domiciled in Massachusetts at least two years consecutive before qualifying for the exemption. The veteran must occupy the property as his or her domicile on July 1 of the tax year.

## OWNERSHIP

1. A qualifying applicant must possess a sufficient ownership interest in the domicile. To satisfy this ownership requirement, the person's interest must be worth \$2,000-\$10,000 depending on the exemption. The person may own this interest solely, as a joint owner or as a tenant in common.
2. The holder of a life estate satisfies the ownership requirement.
3. If the property is in a trust, the applicant must be a trustee or co-trustee and have beneficial interest in that trust.
4. For Clauses 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E and 22F exemptions, an applicant who owns a multi-family house only receives an exemption for the portion of the house the applicant occupies as his or her domicile. For example, if the applicant owns a three-family house and occupies one unit. The applicant receives 1/3 of the exemption.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND

### EXEMPTION AMOUNTS

#### Clause 22 – \$823 (\$800 + COLA)

This exemption is available to the following:

1. Veterans with a service-related disability of 10% or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which discharged.
2. Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.
3. Gold Star mothers and fathers.
4. Spouses (where the domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse and as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried) and surviving spouses of veterans entitled to exemption.
5. Surviving spouses of World War I veterans so long as they remain unmarried and so long as their whole worth, less any mortgage on the property, does not exceed \$20,000.

#### Clause 22A - \$1,544 (\$1,500 + COLA)

This exemption is available to veterans (or their surviving spouse) who:

1. Suffered a service-related loss or permanent loss of use of one foot or one hand or one eye.  
or
2. Received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross.

#### Clause 22B - \$2,573 (\$2,500 + COLA)

This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses) who suffered a service related loss or permanent loss of use of both feet or both hands or both eyes.