



City of Woburn
Massachusetts

City Hall
10 Common Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Tel: 781-897-5901
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Scott D. Galvin
Mayor

Date: April 8, 2020

To: Woburn City Council

Re: Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020

President Anderson and City Council Members:

On Friday April 3, 2020, the Governor signed into the law Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19. Section 10 of Chapter 53 authorizes the chief executive officer of a city to extend the due date for the payment of real and personal property tax bills, and for the filing of exemptions and deferrals, from May 1 until June 1, 2020.

Section 11 of Chapter 53 authorizes the chief executive officer to waive interest and penalties imposed on the late payment of any real or personal property tax, excise tax, water/sewer bill, or other charge (such as a demand fee) that is added to a tax or bill with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late, but on or before June 30, 2020.

Pursuant to the authority granted under Chapter 53, I have notified the Treasurer/Collector and Board of Assessors that the due date for real and personal property tax payments and for the filing of exemption and deferral applications will be extended until June 1, 2020. Additionally, that any interest and penalties assessed to the late payment of real estate, excise, personal property taxes and water/sewer bills shall be waived, in accordance with the previous paragraph. This waiver does not apply to taxes or bills with payment due dates on or before March 10, 2020, or if the tax or bill is not paid on or before June 30, 2020.

Per the Department of Local Services bulletin issued this morning, this notice will be posted on the City's website.

Respectfully,



Scott D. Galvin

Encl.

cc: Timothy J. Donovan, Treasurer/Collector
Board of Assessors



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Important information Regarding Your Tax Bill

Authorized under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19” Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, Mayor Scott D. Galvin adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments, applications for exemptions and deferrals, and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid on or before June 30, 2020.

1. The due date of your real and personal property tax bills has been extended from May 1 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 real property tax exemptions and deferrals has also been extended to June 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 applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5I and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

3. The Mayor has also adopted the provision of Chapter 53 which authorizes the waiver of interest and penalties for the late payment of real and personal property taxes, excise taxes, and water/sewer bills, for payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late, but on or before June 30, 2020. This waiver applies only to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, and when such bills are paid late but paid on or before June 30, 2020.

This waiver does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if the bill is not paid on or before June 30, 2020. Only the following bills are affected: FY20 Quarter 4 for both real and personal property taxes with an original due date of May 1, 2020; Commitment 2 excise tax with a due date of May 7, 2020; monthly water/sewer bills with a due date of June 4, 2020 and semi-annual water/sewer bills with a due date of April 6, 2020.

NOTE - If City Hall is closed on the June 1, 2020, the extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the Governor’s March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency, the due date for tax payments and applications for exemptions and deferrals **is not** also extended – they are still due on June 1, 2020. (See Section 10(b) of the Act.)

Tax payments and applications for exemptions and deferrals may be made by mail, through the on-line payment system at <https://www.woburnma.gov> (payments only) or by placing them into the designated mailbox located at the rear entrance of City Hall (do not deposit cash). Questions may be directed to the Office of the Treasurer/Collector at (781) 897-5870 or by email Collector@cityofwoburn.com