

Ad Hoc Residential Exemption Policy Study Committee

- Members:** Five voting members. At least one and up to two liaisons from the sitting Board of Selectmen.
- Appointed by:** The Board of Selectmen
- Length of Term:** Terms end upon delivery of recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in accordance with the deliverables schedule outlined below.
- Meeting Times:** As determined by the Committee. A minimum of one evening meeting to solicit public comment shall be required.
- Description:** Preserving affordability for residents is the Board's top financial goal. This ad-hoc committee will continue the work of a fact finding working group formed to study the Residential Exemption and analyze if adopting the exemption could help reduce the property tax burden and make it easier for residents to remain in their homes. The ad-hoc committee will focus on identifying policy questions and will make recommendations to the Selectmen regarding the residential exemption.
- Deliverables:** By March 15, 2019, the ad-hoc committee will present policy recommendations and implementation options to the Board of Selectmen based on completing the following tasks:
- Review and update the analysis prepared by the preceding working group.
 - Characterize the expected effects of adopting the exemption on:
 - Residents including:
 - Seniors
 - Tenants
 - Residents whose homes are in trust
 - The Lexington real estate market – including purchasers and developers.
 - Describe fairness issues associated with implementing the exemption.
 - Comparison of the Residential Exemption with means-tested programs.
 - Summarize the experience and implementation practices of communities that have adopted the exemption.
 - Summarize the results of a public information and comment session to obtain general feedback on implementation of the exemption from Lexington residents.

- Other topics and tasks the committee deems relevant to making a comprehensive policy recommendation.

Criteria for Membership: Members shall demonstrate sound business experience or good judgment and represent a balanced cross-section of the community.

Staff Support: The committee will have access to the Assessing department to understand local issues in implementation of the exemption.

Prior to serving as a member of this committee, members are required to:

1. Acknowledge receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Statute. Further, to continue to serve on the Committee the member must acknowledge annually receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Statute. Said summary will be provided by and acknowledged to the Town Clerk.
2. Provide evidence to the Town Clerk that the appointee has completed the on-line training requirement required by the Conflict of Interest statute. Further, to continue to serve on the Committee, the member must acknowledge every two years completion of the on-line training requirement.

Reference: Charge adopted by the Selectmen on December 4, 2017

Charge amended by Board of Selectmen on January 22, 2018 to increase membership from 5 to 7.

Selectmen designated committee members as Special Municipal Employees on January 22, 2018

Charge amended by Board of Selectmen on October 15, 2018 to extend the delivery date to March 15, 2018 and to add the following deliverable: Comparison of the Residential Exemption with means-tested programs.