Collecting key style issues raised by Mark/Sara/Vicki and either resolved ourselves or shared with committee:

1. Vanilla Residential Exemption

Problem: Clear consistent language throughout document

Standard reference thrhoughout document. Suggested names:

* vanilla
* plain
* standard
* basic
* Property-based

Vicki comment: What distinguishes ” the” **R**esidential **E**xemption from “a” **r**esidential **e**xemption is the fact that it is a specific law, rather than a type of law.

While maybe a little awkward, I would tend toward

* the statutory Residential Exemption option
* the State’s Residential Exemption option
* the Residential Exemption property tax option

Do you think that if we do the long version in the first reference in each section ie- adding the word statutory or State and capitalizing the R and E, that we can drop the word statutory and just capitalize the subsequent uses of “ the Residential Exemption” in the rest of that section?

And if the reference is to residential exemption style of exemptions:

* Income-based residential exemption

Seems like we should put a note about terminology early in the report then. [And I’m not sure if we should capitalize “R” and “E” when referencing a means-tested residential exemption since it’s not specific.]

* means-tested Residential Exemption: [lower case m and t since there is not one] Any residential exemption which tests means, which means it must include income, assessed value or another financial metric. Since means often refers to income, we would use this term rather than income-based Residential Exemption
* age-based Resdiential Exemption: an exemption based principally on age (might include means testing as well?). These exist in other states and are a possible model for Lexington.
* statutory Residential Exemption - the permitted one. (rather than vanilla/classic)

Sara comment: I think we do need a shorthand for each proposal within the text as they are so long. If we agree on something like statutory Residential Exemption, it could be SRE. Age-based could be ARE. MTRE for mean-tested that is not primarily age--this all depends on what form the two proposals look like, and hopefully we’ll have that set on Friday? To facilitate shorthand, and to make sure the names stand out in the text as specific proposals, yes, I think we should be capitalizing Residential Exemption (with whatever prefix modifiers we settle on).

I don’t like vanilla as a name, for several reasons, but among those it implies the other proposals are just add ons to a standard (which they are not)--for this reason I also don’t like plain, standard, or basic. Statutory works better. Still trying to think of something I like better...

2. Use of personal pronouns / committee

Correct mix of familiar/iinformal with formal. While not sounding too “bureaucratic or awkward”. Related: if some of us informally chose to do something (like adjust something or present something) who do we say did it or made that choice? Do we represent ourselves as the “committee”. The survey team? etc. (Survey team did not have formal designation as such in advance…)

* we did x
* the committee did x
* the survey team did x

Vicki Comment: the committee, or the Committee feels right to me.

And the survey team feels right too… I don’t feel any concern about the survey team having no previous formal designation.

Sara Comment: I don’t think it would be an issue to say The Committee with regard to the survey choices either--the whole Committee debated many points and approved the survey itself and assisted with distribution, and discussed/approved many of the data handling issues as Mark brought them to meetings/circulated them. I don’t know that I feel we need to add in a name survey team--may confuse readers about who was involved.

->Well, “we” is a lot less bureaucratic. How do you feel about the informal pronoun?

Anything that keeps us from using passive construction all over the place. I think the informal pronoun “we” is fine for referring to work the Committee is describing. I think I prefer capitalizing the Committee to refer to us, just because it’s short for the entire committee name. But I don’t care that much about C/c.

**3. New Question from Vicki: I need guidance on whether we should put a decimal point after every dollar amount:**

**House Value $778,000**

**Or**

**House Value $778,000.**

mark - i’ve not seen a decimal point after a dollar amount in public policy writing so I do not suggest that.

Sara--Agreed with Mark.

4. Psychological stress - use more encompassing term to encompass every day

plus “town cares about me”..