

To: Board of Finance Members

From: Lynne Vanderslice

Date: July 10, 2023

RE: Senior and Individuals with Disabilities Tax Relief Programs

All,

As you know, we currently fund two property tax relief programs for elderly residents and residents with disabilities. Both programs are income based and 100% funded through the annual budget:

- *State mandated tax relief program*. This program is administered by OPM and was funded through the state budget until the final years of the Mallory administration. Once the legislature stopped funding the statutory program, municipalities were required to assume the cost.
- *Town of Wilton tax relief program* is authorized and described in a town ordinance adopted in 2010 and amended by the Board of Selectmen in 2019. The program is administered by the Assessor's Office and includes tax credit and tax deferral options. The ordinance requires tax deferrals be subject to interest at a rate not to exceed 5%. The rate can be changed by the Board of Selectmen no more than once per year following consultation with the Board of Finance. The current rate of 2.75% was adopted as of FY2015. Historically, the rate has been in line with the town's borrowing rate.

A new Assessor, Hollie Rapp, was appointed earlier this year. She asked whether the Board of Selectmen intended to change the rate. At the June 6, 2023 meeting, the Board indicated our intention not to change the rate and to refer to the Board of Finance for any comments.

The specific language from the ordinance is as follows:

"...tax deferral benefits shall be subject to simple interest of not more than the rate of 5% per year; however, such interest rate shall be subject to change, no more than once a year, by the Board of Selectmen in consultation with the Board of Finance...."

The entire ordinance is available here: <https://ecode360.com/8025844>.

Information about both programs is available here: <https://www.wiltonct.org/assessors-office/pages/state-elderly-and-disabled-homeowners-program> and here: <https://www.wiltonct.org/assessors-office/pages/town-elderly-and-disabled-homeowners-program>.

I look forward to hearing any comments you might have at tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you.