

Town of Stanford

Assessors Office

26 Town Hall Road
P.O. Box 436
Stanfordville, N.Y. 12581
(845) 868-1366 ext. 7

Spring 2026

Dear Property Owner,

An explanation of the process regarding a review of your assessment, necessary forms, and other informative links can be found on the New York State web address: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/contest/grievproced.htm>

Other information you should know if you plan to grieve your assessment:

- a) The latest State equalization rate for the Town of Stanford is **100%**
- b) The latest residential assessment ratio for the Town of Stanford is **100%**.
- c) Statement of the Assessor that property has been assessed at **100%**
- d) Valuation date is **July 01, 2025.**
- e) Taxable Status date is **March 01, 2026.**
- f) The Board of Assessment Review meets for Grievance Day on **May 26, 2026, at the Town Hall 1-3 pm and 7-9 pm**
- g) The Town of Stanford Assessor's Office does not accept electronic submission of applications.

If you are not internet capable, or you wish a more personal approach for this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Assessor's Office for materials or assistance. Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Steve Gotovich
Assessor, Town of Stanford

Contesting Your Assessment in New York State

(Previously titled “What to do if you disagree with your assessment”)

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OVERVIEW

If you own property in New York State, you are eligible for formal review of your assessment.

There are two levels of formal review:

- 1) Administrative review - the “grievance” process is conducted at the municipal level
- 2) Judicial review
 - in order to pursue judicial review you must first go through administrative review
 - includes two options:
 1. [Small Claims Assessment Review \(SCAR\)](#) - a low-cost option available to most homeowners – information is available from the website of the Unified Court System - www.nycourts.gov/litigants/scar/generalinfo.shtml
 2. Tax certiorari proceedings in State Supreme Court - to pursue this option, you should contact an attorney.

Before pursuing formal review of your assessment, you should first determine if you are assessed fairly:

Step One: What is the assessor's estimate of the market value of your property?

You'll find this information on the [assessment roll](#).

You should [check your assessment](#) annually prior to Grievance Day (typically the fourth Tuesday in May, but confirm the date with your assessor).

If your municipality is assessing at 100% of market value, your assessment and the assessor's estimate of market value will be identical.

If assessments are not at 100% of market value, you can use this formula to calculate the assessor's estimate of market value:

- $\text{assessment} \div \text{level of assessment} = \text{assessor's estimate of market value}$

Step Two: Develop an estimate of the market value of your property

- Homeowners may refer to our publication [How to estimate the market value of your home](#)
- Other property owners may wish to contact an appraiser or other real estate professional

Generally, if the assessor's estimate of the market value of your property reflects roughly the amount for which you could sell your property, then your assessment is fair.

Step Three: If your assessment is too high

Often, an informal discussion between a taxpayer and an assessor can result in a sharing of information beneficial to both parties. If such a discussion does not result in a reduction in your assessment, and you still feel as though your assessment is too high, you may wish to contest your assessment.

Rather than determining that your assessment is too high, you might find that your property is assessed based on its market value, but the rest of the community is assessed at a lower level of assessment. Again, you should discuss this with your assessor. For example,

- Your property is worth \$100,000 and your assessment is \$100,000. However, properties in your town are assessed at 90% of market value. Your property is overassessed – your assessment should be \$90,000.

If you are assessed fairly, but you feel that your taxes are too high

Assessors do not determine your property taxes. If you feel as though your assessment accurately reflects the market value of your property, but you still feel that your property taxes are too high, you may wish to address this matter with the taxing jurisdictions that impose taxes in your community - school board, county legislature, city council, town board, fire district and other special districts.

The assessor cannot assist you with tax matters, but only with matters pertaining to the assessed value of your property.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Any person who pays property taxes can grieve an assessment, including:

- property owners
- purchasers
- tenants who are required to pay property taxes pursuant to a lease or written agreement

Only the assessment on the current tentative assessment roll can be grieved - you can't grieve assessments from prior years.

There is no cost to grieve an assessment and it does not require you to hire a lawyer.

Filing the grievance form

Outside of New York City and Nassau County, use [Form RP-524 Complaint on Real Property Assessment](#) to grieve your assessment. The form is available from our website (www.tax.ny.gov) or from your assessor's office.

- New York City residents - Contact the [New York City Tax Commission](#) - 212-669-4410
- Nassau County residents - Contact the [Nassau County Assessment Review Commission](#) - 516-571-2391.

File the grievance form with the assessor or the board of assessment review (BAR) in your city or town.

If your property is located in a village that assesses property, you will have two assessments, one for the village and one for the town. To grieve both assessments, you are required to file a separate Form RP-524 with both the town and village. Grievance dates for villages will vary from towns (see below) – contact your village clerk to determine if your village assesses property and for grievance dates (see below).

Deadline for filing Form RP-524

In most communities, the deadline for submitting Form RP-524 is Grievance Day (see below). If you mail the form, it must be **received** by the assessor or BAR no later than Grievance Day. If you do not file the form by the deadline, you will lose the opportunity for administrative and judicial review of your assessment this year.

Check with your assessor to confirm Grievance Day in your community

Grievance Day is the deadline for submitting Form RP-524 and the day that the BAR meets to hear complaints. In most communities, Grievance Day is the fourth Tuesday in May. However, there are exceptions:

- **Cities and towns that share an assessor** can adopt different Grievance Days between the fourth Tuesday in May and the second Tuesday in June
- **New York City** - the Assessment Review Commission meets throughout the year, but complaints must be filed by March 15 for Class One properties and March 1 for all other properties
- **Nassau County** – the Assessment Review Commission meets throughout the year, but complaints must be filed by March 1
- **Other cities** – dates vary, contact your assessor or city clerk for the date
- **Suffolk County** - town BAR's meet on the third Tuesday in May
- **Westchester County** - town BARs meet on the third Tuesday in June
- **Villages that assess property** – typically, the BAR meets on the third Tuesday of February; however, dates can vary – check with your village assessor or village clerk

Local government contact information is available from our [Municipal Profiles Web page](#).

Non-resident property owners

If you're a property owner who doesn't reside in the municipality where you own property, you have additional rights related to grieving your assessment:

- You can file a written request for a list of your property, the assessed value, and the time and place for hearing grievances. The request must be made no later than 15 days prior to Tentative Roll Date. (Tentative Roll Date is May 1 in most communities, but confirm the date with your assessor – also see our [property tax calendar Web page](#)). The assessor must mail the information to you no later than five days after the completion of the tentative assessment roll.
- A non-resident owner can request a date after Grievance Day for the grievance hearing but must submit Form RP-524 on or before the regularly scheduled Grievance Day. Request must be made to the BAR or to the assessor on or before grievance day and the BAR must set a date no later than 21 days after grievance day for the hearing.

Stipulating to an assessment reduction

On or prior to Grievance Day, you and the assessor may stipulate to a reduced assessment of the value of your property. To do so, complete and sign Part Six of Form RP-524. Be sure to receive a copy of the signed stipulation for your records.

If you enter into a stipulation, you may not ask the board of assessment review for a further reduction in your assessment. If the agreed upon assessment appears on the final assessment roll, you will not be allowed to seek a lower assessment through judicial review.

Appearing before the BAR

The BAR consists of three to five members appointed by the city council, town board or village board. The BAR cannot include the assessor or any staff from the assessor's office. Assessors, however, are required to attend all formal hearings of the board and have the right to be heard on any complaint.

You have the right to attend the hearing of the BAR and to present statements and/or documentation in support of your grievance. You may appear personally, with or without your attorney or other representative.

If you choose to be represented by your attorney or other representative, you must authorize that person to appear on your behalf (see Part Four of Form RP-524).

The BAR may require you or your representative to appear personally, or to submit additional evidence. If you refuse to appear or answer any material question you will not be entitled to a reduction in assessment.

Notification of the BAR's decision

You will receive a notice of the board's determination (except where the board ratifies a stipulated assessment – see below). The notice must contain a statement of the reasons for the board's determination.

If you don't receive the relief you requested

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the BAR, you may seek judicial review of your assessment via:

- **Small Claims Assessment Review (SCAR)** – only available to:
 - Property owners who live in their one, two or three family dwellings that are used exclusively for residential purposes, or
 - Owners of vacant land that is not of sufficient size to contain a one, two or three family dwelling.

- Requires \$30 filing fee
- Information regarding SCAR is available from the [New York State Unified Court System](#)
- **Tax certiorari proceeding**
 - Commenced in New York State Supreme Court pursuant to Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law
 - We highly recommend you contact a private attorney.

Deadline for judicial review

SCAR and tax certiorari proceedings must be initiated within 30 days of the filing of the final assessment roll or notice of such filing, whichever is later.

COMPLETING GRIEVANCE FORM RP-524

You can complete Form RP-524 *Complaint on Real Property Assessment* yourself or your representative or attorney can complete it for you.

Part One - General information

Lines 1 through 4 are self-explanatory.

Line 5 - You can find your property identification information on your property tax bill or the [assessment roll](#).

Line 6 - You'll find your land assessment and total assessment on the assessment roll or a notice from your assessor's office. Note that you can't grieve the land assessment – you can only grieve the total assessment.

Line 7 - Determine the market value of your property based on sources of information suggested on RP-524, Part II. Remember that your estimate of the market value of your property should be based on your property's value as of the [Valuation Date](#), which is July 1 of the prior year in most municipalities. You should be careful when determining how much of an assessment reduction to request because you may be precluded from obtaining a greater reduction than the amount you request, even if circumstances should show that a larger reduction is warranted.

Part Two - Value of property

In order to qualify for a reduced assessment, you will need to prove to the satisfaction of the BAR that your property is currently over-assessed. This section gives you the opportunity to provide information that supports a lower assessment.

For homeowners and owners of most residential properties, the best way to support your case is by providing sales of comparable properties where the sales prices are lower than the assessor's estimated market value of your property. See [how to estimate the market value of your home](#).

Part Three - Grounds for complaint

In this section, you will make your case for reduced assessment by demonstrating that your property is assessed either:

- at a higher level of assessment than the rest of the community (Unequal – Option A)
- higher than the actual market value of your property (Excessive – Option B1)
- too high because an exemption has been improperly denied (Excessive – Option B2)
- too high because a transition assessment was inaccurately calculated (Excessive – Option B3)
- in a way that is contrary to the law (Unlawful – Option C)
- in the wrong class in a community that uses [homestead and non-homestead tax rates](#) (Misclassification – Option D)

Details of each option are below:

A. Unequal Assessment

You can claim unequal assessment if assessments in your city, town or village are not at 100% of market value and your property is assessed at a higher percentage of value than the average of all other properties or all other residential properties on the same assessment roll.

To demonstrate that your property is unequally assessed, first determine an estimate of the market value of your property as described above. Then determine the average level of assessment (also known as the *uniform percentage of value*) at which all other properties are assessed on the same assessment roll. To establish the level of assessment of your municipality, the following figures will be helpful:

- [equalization rate](#) (available from our Web site)
- [residential assessment ratio](#) for the city, town or village (available from our Web site)
- uniform percentage of value listed on the assessment roll

Of those three options, the one that is the lowest will generally be of the greatest value in determining the over-assessment of your property

In addition or alternatively, you may wish to generate your own estimate of your community's level of assessment for either all property or just residential property using either

- Market values and assessments of a sample of other properties on the same assessment roll
- Purchase price and assessment of other properties that have recently sold

Unequal assessment based on the equalization rate - Once you establish the value of your property and the level of assessment at which other properties are assessed, you can apply the level of assessment to your property and compare the result to your assessment. If the result is lower than your assessment, you can request that your assessment be reduced to that lower amount. For example:

- If you prove the market value of your property is \$200,000, an assessment of \$150,000 would show that your property is assessed at 75% of market value. If you prove that all other property on average is assessed at 50%, you could claim a reduction of your assessment to \$100,000.

Unequal assessment based on the residential assessment ratio – If you own a one, two or three family residential real property, you also have the option of proving that the your property is assessed at higher level of assessment than the level of assessment applied to other residential properties on the same assessment roll.

Once you determine the level of assessment of other residential properties you can apply this level to the value of your property. If the result is lower than your assessment, you can request that your assessment be reduced to that lower amount. For example:

- If you prove the value of your property is \$200,000, an assessment of \$100,000 would show that your property is assessed at 50% of market value. If you prove that all other residential property is assessed on the average at 25%, you may claim a reduction of your assessment to \$50,000.

B. Excessive Assessment

There are three cases where excessive assessment is the correct option to use:

1. If your municipality is assessing at 100% of market value and you believe your assessed value is greater than the full market value of the property
2. If you were denied a property tax exemption, or if you believe the exemption was calculated incorrectly. If you filed an exemption application with the assessor, include a copy of the application with your complaint. If you do not have a copy, you should request that the assessor submit it to the BAR.
3. Cities, towns and villages that use homestead/non-homestead tax rates can adopt a system of *transition assessments*. The transition assessments phase in over five years all increases and decreases in assessed valuations resulting from a revaluation. If your city, town or village has adopted transition assessments and you believe that the transition assessment for your property has been improperly calculated, you can claim an excessive assessment.

C. Unlawful Assessment

Unlawful Assessment is the option to choose if you believe your property is assessed in a way contrary to the law such that your property:

1. should be wholly exempt from property taxes because of its status as a certain type of organization or agency (e.g., churches, colleges, etc.) and you submitted an application for such an exemption
2. is located totally outside the boundaries of the city, town, village, school district or special district indicated on the assessment roll
3. was assessed by someone other than the assessor or your assessment was entered or changed after the tentative assessment roll was filed
4. cannot be located from the description on the assessment roll
5. is special franchise property (utility property in the public right-of-way) and the assessment exceeds the final assessment as determined by the Department of Taxation and Finance

D. Misclassification

If your municipality uses [homestead and non-homestead tax rates](#), and you believe your property is assessed in the wrong class (either entirely or partially), misclassification is the option to use.

The homestead class includes:

- One, two, or three family residential parcels
- Residential condominiums
- Mixed use parcels (i.e., used in part for residential purposes and in part for non-residential purposes), if the primary use is residential
- Mobile homes and trailers, only if they are owner-occupied and separately assessed
- All vacant land parcels, not exceeding ten acres, which are located in an assessing unit which has a zoning law or ordinance in effect, provided that such parcels are located in a zone that does not allow a residential use other than for one, two or three family dwelling residential real property
- Farm dwellings
- All land used in agricultural production that is eligible for an agricultural assessment and the owner has filed an annual application for an agricultural assessment (Section 305 or 306 of the Agriculture and Market Law)
- All farm buildings and structures as defined in Section 483(3) of the Real Property Tax Law

The non-homestead class includes all other real property (e.g., commercial, industrial, special franchise and utility property, and some vacant land.)

There are cases where part of a property can be classified homestead and part classified non-homestead. For example, in the case of a 100 acre parcel, an assessor may classify the residence and surrounding 10 acres as residential while the rest is classified as non-homestead.

Part four - Designation of representative

If you designated someone to represent you before the BAR, then list your name, your representative's name, sign and date.

Part five - Certification

You or your representative must sign and date this section.

Part six - Stipulation

Only complete this section if you and the assessor agreed to a reduced assessment. In these cases, the BAR is expected to ratify the stipulation. If you agree to a stipulation and it is approved by the BAR, you will no longer have the right to judicial review.

Grievance procedures

Any person who pays property taxes can grieve an assessment, including:

- property owners
- purchasers
- tenants who are required to pay property taxes pursuant to a lease or written agreement

Only the assessment on the current tentative assessment roll can be grieved - you can't grieve assessments from prior years.

There is no cost to grieve an assessment and it does not require you to hire a lawyer.

Filing the grievance form

Outside of New York City and Nassau County, use [Form RP-524 Complaint on Real Property Assessment](#) to grieve your assessment.

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Deadline for filing Form RP-524

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You have the right to attend the hearing of the BAR and to present statements and/or documentation in support of your grievance. You may appear personally, with or without your attorney or other representative.

If you choose to be represented by your attorney or other representative, you must authorize that person to appear on your behalf (see Part Four of Form RP-524).

The BAR may require you or your representative to appear personally, or to submit additional evidence. If you refuse to appear or answer any material question you will not be entitled to a reduction in assessment.

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 - Property owners who live in their one, two or three family dwellings that are used exclusively for residential purposes, or
 - Owners of vacant land that is not of sufficient size to contain a one, two or three family dwelling
 - Requires \$30 filing fee
 - Information regarding SCAR is available from the [New York State Unified Court System](#)
- Tax certiorari proceeding
 - Commenced in New York State Supreme Court pursuant to Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law
 - We highly recommend you contact a private attorney

Deadline for judicial review



SCAR and tax certiorari proceedings must be initiated within 30 days of the filing of the final assessment roll or notice of such filing, whichever is later.

Updated: June 21, 2017





Assessments vs. Taxes: What's the difference?



Your assessment could increase, and your tax bill could decrease

Last year		This year	
Your assessment:	\$100,000	Your assessment (5%↑):	\$105,000 
Total value of the town:	\$50,000,000	Total value of the town (8% avg.↑):	\$54,000,000
Tax levy:	\$1,500,000	Tax levy:	\$1,500,000
Tax rate:	\$30 Per \$1,000	Tax rate:	\$27.78 Per \$1,000
Your property tax bill:	\$3,000	Your property tax bill:	\$2,917 (\$83 decrease) 

Your assessment could increase, and your tax bill could stay the same

Last year		This year	
Your assessment:	\$100,000	Your assessment (5%↑):	\$105,000 
Total value of the town:	\$50,000,000	Total value of the town (8% avg.↑):	\$54,000,000
Tax levy:	\$1,500,000	Tax levy (2.86%↑):	\$1,542,855
Tax rate:	\$30 Per \$1,000	Tax rate:	\$28.57 Per \$1,000
Your property tax bill:	\$3,000	Your property tax bill:	\$3,000 (no change) 

Your assessment could decrease, and your tax bill could increase

Last year		This year	
Your assessment:	\$100,000	Your assessment (5%↓):	\$95,000 
Total value of the town:	\$50,000,000	Total value of the town (5% avg.↓):	\$47,500,000
Tax levy:	\$1,500,000	Tax levy (2.86%↑):	\$1,542,855
Tax rate:	\$30 Per \$1,000	Tax rate:	\$32.48 Per \$1,000
Your property tax bill:	\$3,000	Your property tax bill:	\$3,085.60 (\$85.60 increase) 

- For more information on the factors affecting your tax bill, talk to your school board, town board, city council, or county officials.
- For more information on assessments, talk to your assessor.
- More information is available online at: www.tax.ny.gov



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

RP-524 (3/09)

COMPLAINT ON REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FOR 20

BEFORE THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW FOR _____
(city, town village or county)

PART ONE: GENERAL INFORMATION

(General information and instructions for completing this form are contained in form RP-524-Ins)

1. Name and telephone no. of owner(s)	2. Mailing Address of owner(s)
_____	_____
_____	_____
Day no. ()	_____
Evening no. ()	Email (optional)
_____	_____

3. Name, address and telephone no. of representative of owner, if representative is filing application.
(if applicable, complete Part Four on page 4.)

4. Property location

_____	_____
Street Address	Village (if any)
_____	_____
City/Town	County
_____	_____

School District	

5. Property identification (see tax bill or assessment roll)

Tax map number or section/block/lot _____

Type of property: Residence _____ Farm _____ Vacant land _____

 Commercial _____ Industrial _____ Other _____

Description: _____

6. Assessed value appearing on the assessment roll:

Land \$ _____ Total \$ _____

7. Property owner's estimate of market value of property as of valuation date (see instructions) \$ _____

PART TWO: INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE VALUE OF PROPERTY
(If additional explanation or documentation is necessary, please attach)

Information to support the value of property claimed in Part One, item 7 (complete one or more):

- 1. Purchase price of property: \$ _____
 a. Date of purchase: _____
 b. Terms Cash Contract Other (explain) _____
 c. Relationship between seller and purchaser (parent-child, in-laws, siblings, etc.): _____
 d. Personal property, if any, included in purchase price (furniture, livestock, etc.; attach list and sales tax receipt): _____

- 2. Property has been recently offered for sale (attach copy of listing agreement, if any):
 When and for how long: _____
 How offered: _____ Asking price: \$ _____

- 3. Property has been recently appraised (attach copy): When: _____ By Whom: _____
 Purpose of appraisal: _____ Appraised value: \$ _____

- 4. Description of any buildings or improvements located on the property, including year of construction and present condition:

- 5. Buildings have been recently remodeled, constructed or additional improvements made:
 Cost \$ _____
 Date Started: _____ Date Completed: _____
 Complainant should submit construction cost details where available.

- 6. Property is income producing (e.g., leased or rented), commercial or industrial property and the complainant is prepared to present detailed information about the property including rental income, operating expenses, sales volume and income statements.

- 7. Additional supporting documentation (check if attached).

PART THREE: GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT

A. UNEQUAL ASSESSMENT (Complete items 1-4)

1. The assessment is unequal for the following reason: (check a or b)
 - a. The assessed value is at a higher percentage of value than the assessed value of other real property on the assessment roll.
 - b. The assessed value of real property improved by a one, two or three family residence is at a higher percentage of full (market) value than the assessed value of other residential property on the assessment roll or at a higher percentage of full (market) value than the assessed value of all real property on the assessment roll.
2. The complainant believes this property should be assessed at _____ % of full value based on one or more of the following (check one or more):
 - a. The latest State equalization rate for the city, town or village in which the property is located is _____ %.
 - b. The latest residential assessment ratio established for the city, town or village in which the residential property is located. Enter latest residential assessment ratio only if property is improved by a one, two or three family residence _____ %.
 - c. Statement of the assessor or other local official that property has been assessed at _____ %.
 - d. Other (explain on attached sheet).
3. Value of property from Part one #7 \$ _____
4. Complainant believes the assessment should be reduced to \$ _____

B. EXCESSIVE ASSESSMENT (Check one or more)

The assessment is excessive for the following reason(s):

1. The assessed value exceeds the full value of the property.
 - a. Assessed value of property \$ _____
 - b. Complainant believes that assessment should be reduced to full value of (Part one #7) \$ _____
 - c. Attach list of parcels upon which complainant relies for objection, if applicable.
2. The taxable assessed value is excessive because of the denial of all or portion of a partial exemption.
 - a. Specify exemption (e.g., senior citizens, veterans, school tax relief [STAR]) _____
 - b. Amount of exemption claimed \$ _____
 - c. Amount granted, if any \$ _____
 - d. If application for exemption was filed, attach copy of application to this complaint.
3. Improper calculation of transition assessment. (Applicable only in approved assessing unit which has adopted transition assessments.)
 - a. Transition assessment \$ _____
 - b. Transition assessment claimed \$ _____

C. UNLAWFUL ASSESSMENT (Check one or more)

The assessment is unlawful for the following reason(s):

1. Property is wholly exempt. (Specify exemption (e.g., nonprofit organization)) _____
2. Property is entirely outside the boundaries of the city, town, village, school district or special district in which it is designated as being located.
3. Property has been assessed and entered on the assessment roll by a person or body without the authority to make the entry.
4. Property cannot be identified from description or tax map number on the assessment roll.
5. Property is special franchise property, the assessment of which exceeds the final assessment thereof as determined by the Office of Real Property Tax Services. (Attach copy of certificate.)

D. MISCLASSIFICATION (Check one)

The property is misclassified for the following reason (relevant only in approved assessing unit which establish homestead and non-homestead tax rates):

- _____ Class designation on the assessment roll:
1. Complainant believes class designation should be

2. The assessed value is improperly allocated between homestead and non-homestead real property.

Allocation of assessed value on assessment roll		Claimed allocation
Homestead	\$ _____	\$ _____
Non-Homestead	\$ _____	\$ _____



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE
OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING
COMPLAINTS ON REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Who may complain? Any person aggrieved by an assessment (e.g., an owner, purchaser or tenant who is required to pay the taxes pursuant to a lease or written agreement) may file a complaint (RP-524).^{*} You may complete the complaint yourself or your representative or attorney may complete it for you.

What assessment may be reviewed? The only assessment that may be reviewed is the assessment on the current tentative assessment roll completed by the local assessor. As a general rule, a separate complaint should be filed for each separately assessed parcel.

Where must the complaint be filed? The complaint must be filed in the city or town in which the property is located, with either the assessor or the board of assessment review. You may deliver the complaint either to the assessor or to the board of assessment review. You may also mail your complaint for review, but it must be received by the assessor or the board of assessment review no later than the day the board of assessment review meets to hear complaints.

If the property is located in a village which assesses property, there will be two assessments, one by the village and one by the town. If the complainant wishes to have both the town and the village assessments reviewed, the complainant must file separate complaints with the town assessor (or board of assessment review) and the village assessor (or board of review or board of assessment review). To determine whether the village produces its own assessment roll, consult the village clerk.

When must the complaint be filed? You may file the complaint with the assessor on or before the first day the board of assessment review meets to hear complaints or with the board of assessment review on such day. If you file your complaint fewer than four business days before the board of assessment review meets, the board is required to grant the assessor's request for an adjournment to allow the assessor to prepare a response to the complaint. The failure to file your complaint on time closes off your right for administrative and judicial review of this year's assessment.

When is the meeting of the Board of Assessment Review? In most towns, the board of assessment review meets on the fourth Tuesday of May, except as follows:

In **Suffolk County**, town boards of assessment review meet on the third Tuesday of May;

In **Westchester County**, town boards of assessment review meet on the third Tuesday in June;

In **Nassau County**, the Assessment Review Commission meets throughout the year, but complaints must be filed by March 1.*

In **cities**, the date for the meeting of the board of assessment review must be ascertained from specific charter provisions and the assessor's or the city clerk's office should be contacted; and

In **most villages** which assess real property, the board of review or board of assessment review meets on the third Tuesday of February; however, village assessment calendars may vary, and the village clerk should be consulted.

In cities and towns which employ an assessor who is at the same time employed by another assessing unit, the local governing body may adopt a local law establishing a different date for the meeting of the board of assessment review. That date may be no earlier than the fourth Tuesday in May and no later than the second Tuesday in June. You should check with your city or town clerk to determine if such a local law is in effect in your city or town.

Complaint procedure

1. Your written complaint should include statements, records, and other relevant information to support your complaint.
2. You should be very careful when determining how much of an assessment reduction to request because you may be precluded from obtaining a greater reduction than the amount you request, even if circumstances should show that a larger reduction is warranted.
3. You have the right to attend the hearing of the board of assessment review and to present statements in support of your complaint. You may appear personally, with or without your attorney or other representative.

* Nassau County has its own complaint form and procedures; contact the Nassau County Department of Assessment or Assessment Review Commission for forms or more information.

the average of all other properties on the same assessment roll, you may claim an unequal assessment. For example, if you prove the value of your property is \$200,000, an assessment of \$150,000 would show that your property is assessed at 75% of market value. If you prove that all other property on the average is assessed at 50%, you may claim a reduction of your assessment to \$100,000.

2. If you own a one, two or three family residence and if you believe that it is assessed at either a higher proportion of full (market) value than other residential property on the assessment roll or at a higher proportion of full (market) value than the assessed valuation of all real property on the assessment roll, you may claim an unequal assessment. For example, if you prove the value of your property is \$200,000, an assessment of \$100,000 would show that is assessed at 50% of market value. If you prove that all other residential property is assessed on the average at 25%, you may claim a reduction of your assessment to \$50,000.

3. To demonstrate that your property is unequally assessed, you must first establish the full value of the property as indicated above. Note that the State law now requires that the assessment roll display the assessor's estimate of the full value of your property. Then you must establish the average percentage of value at which all other properties are assessed on the same assessment roll. To establish the average percentage of value at which all property is assessed on the assessment roll, the following information may be useful:

- a. The uniform percentage of value appearing on the assessment roll;
- b. The latest State equalization rate or residential assessment ratio for your assessing unit (city, town or village), which is available from your assessor, County Director of Real Property Tax Services, or the Office of Real Property Tax Services;
- c. Market values and assessments of a sample of other properties on the same assessment roll;
- d. Purchase price and assessment of other properties recently sold; and
- e. Statements of the assessor or other local official.

Once you have established the value of your property and the average percentage of value at which all other properties are assessed, you must apply the percentage to the value of your property and then compare the result to your assessment. If the result is lower than your assessment, you may request that your assessment be reduced to that lower amount.

In the case of one, two or three family residential real property, you also have the option of proving that the percentage of full value represented by your assessment is higher than the average percentage at which other residential properties are assessed on the same assessment roll. To establish the average percentage at which residential property is assessed on the assessment roll, the latest residential assessment ratio established for your assessing unit is useful. (The residential assessment ratio is available from your Assessor, County Clerk or County Director of Real Property Tax Services, or the Office of Real Property Tax Services.) Once you have established the average percentage at which other residential properties are assessed, you must apply this percentage to the value of your property. If the result is lower than your assessment, you may request that your assessment be reduced to that lower amount.

B. Excessive Assessment

1. **Overvaluation.** If you believe the assessed valuation of your property is greater than the full market value of the property, you may claim an excessive assessment. To establish the full market value of your property, you should supply the kind of information set forth above.

2. **Incorrect Partial Exemption.** If your property was denied all or a portion of a partial exemption (e.g., senior citizens, veterans, school tax relief [STAR]), you may also claim an excessive assessment. If you filed an application for the partial exemption with the Assessor, submit a copy of the application with your complaint. If you do not have a copy, you should request the Assessor to submit it to the Board of Assessment Review.

3. **Excessive Transition Assessment.** Cities, towns and villages certified by the Office of Real Property Tax Services as approved assessing units may adopt a system of transition assessments to phase in over five years all increases and decreases in assessed valuations resulting from a revaluation. If your city, town or village has adopted transition assessments and you believe that the transition assessment for your property has been improperly calculated, you may claim an excessive assessment.

C. Unlawful Assessment

1. **Property wholly exempt.** Certain real property of certain organizations and agencies is wholly exempt from real property taxation (for example, churches, colleges, etc.) If your claim is that the assessment is unlawful because the property should be wholly exempt, you should supply the Board of Assessment Review with information upon which it may make a judgment, including a completed exemption application form if required. (NOTE: If your claim relates to a partial exemption such as a veterans or senior citizen exemption, the assessment is not unlawful, but a failure to grant all or a portion of a partial exemption may constitute an excessive assessment; see item B.2.)