



MIDDLETOWN

Rhode Island

TAX ASSESSOR TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

350 East Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842
(401) 842-6500 | MiddletownRI.com

To: Town Administrator Shawn J. Brown
From: Tax Assessor George Durgin
Subject: Tiered Residential Tax Program Question and Answer Sheet
Date: March 7, 2022

Recently, the Town Council approved a new tiered residential tax program (TRTP) in Middletown. As you know, the goal of the program is to help lower the tax burden on property owners that maintain their primary residence in Middletown, to make our family friendly community more affordable to live, work and play. With that in mind, I wanted to release this Question & Answer sheet to ensure a smooth rollout to the program.

1. What is the tiered residential tax program?
 - The tiered tax will split the residential tax rate so taxpayers who maintain their primary residence in Middletown will be taxed at a lower rate on their real property. The program applies only to the individual's primary residence. It does not apply to other properties an individual may own.
2. Why was the TRTP implemented?
 - The program was implemented at the request of the Town Council as a means of giving tax relief to taxpayers whose primary residence is Middletown.
3. When does the TRTP go into effect?
 - Subject to approval by the Rhode Island General Assembly, the TRTP will take effect with the 2022 tax bill homeowners typically receive in August.
4. How do I know if I'm eligible for the TRTP?
 - Taxpayers applying for the TRTP, or their spouse, must be registered to vote in Middletown in order to be eligible.
5. How is the term "resident" defined?
 - The ordinance passed by the Town Council requires that Applicants — or their spouse — must be registered to vote in Middletown and must live in the Town for more than six (6) months of the year. Applicants who are receiving an owner-occupied rate or Homestead exemption on another piece of property outside of Middletown are not eligible.

6. So, I believe I'm eligible to receive the TRTP benefit. What do I need to do to save on my residential tax bill?
 - Applications are available in the Tax Assessor office in Town Hall, 350 East Main Road and at the Tax Assessor's website at <https://mdl.town/TRTP> online.
7. Does the TRTP negate or affect any other tax exemptions I receive from the Town?
 - No. The TRTP is in addition to other tax exemptions for veterans status, seniors, disabilities or similar relief provided by the Town.
8. My property is in a trust. Can I qualify for the TRTP program?
 - You must be a named beneficiary in order to qualify.
9. How do I find out if my TRTP application was accepted?
 - Your tax bill expected to be mailed in August will reflect any changes as a result of the TRTP. Beforehand, you should receive a postcard in the mail from the Town outlining your TRTP status.
10. What percentage do I save on my taxes with the TRTP benefit?
 - It's too early to tell what the benefit will be to residential property owners who are approved for the TRTP. This is all dependent on where the Town Council sets the Town's Fiscal 2023 budget and tax rates. Updates will be provided as the process evolves.
11. I applied for the TRTP benefit and was accepted by the Town. Do I need to reapply in January 2023 to get the benefit again?
 - No. Under the ordinance, applicants for the TRTP rate must apply once every three (3) years.
12. I own more than one residential property in Middletown. Can I get the TRTP benefit on each of my properties?
 - The TRTP applies only to the property that is used as the taxpayer's primary residence. It does not apply to the taxpayer's other properties.
13. Are commercial, industrial, motor vehicle and other properties eligible for the TRTP benefit?
 - No.
14. Are new tax dollars created as a result of the TRTP?
 - No, the TRTP does not generate new tax dollars, nor does it reduce the overall tax revenue to the Town.
15. What's the 2022 deadline to submit all my paperwork?
 - Applications and any supporting materials must be filed with the Tax Assessor's office, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842 by the close of business May 2.

16. So, I missed the TRTP deadline for 2022. When is the next time I can file a TRTP application to save money on my residential tax bill?
 - January 2023 for the 2023 tax bill.
17. When will the TRTP benefit be reflected in my 2022 tax bill?
 - The benefit will show up on your 2022 tax bill, which is expected to be mailed in August.
18. Someone I know is claiming TRTP relief, but I don't believe they're eligible. How do I get that information to the appropriate party with the Town?
 - First off, thank you for your vigilance. If you believe someone is claiming TRTP relief inappropriately, please contact the Tax Assessor's office, 350 East Main Road, call 847-7300 or email Tax Assessor George Durgin at gdurgin@MiddletownRI.com. All information will be handled confidentially. The penalty for those found violating the new ordinance is up to a \$1,000 fine.
19. Where can I get more information and details about TRTP?
 - First, visit <https://mdl.town/TRTP> for the latest details. Periodic updates about the TRTP program will be posted on the Town's website, through social media channels and the Town's monthly newsletter "Middletown Today."
20. Okay, that's a lot of information, but I have still have questions. Where can I ask them and get a response in a timely manner?
 - Questions are best directed to <https://mdl.town/Helps> online under the "Other Municipal Services — Tax, Assessment Or Sewer Collections Inquiry" section at the bottom of the page. As questions come up, updates will be added to this Question & Answer sheet as needed.
21. I want to see the language in the ordinance myself. Where do I find those details?
 - Click on the <https://mdl.town/TRTPOrdinance> link for a complete copy of the ordinance.