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TOWN CLERK  
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## TOWN OF NEWFANE

2737 Main Street  
Newfane, New York 14108  
FAX 716-638-4261

JUSTICE COURT  
2896 Transit Road  
Newfane, New York  
14108

716-778-9292

HIGHWAY  
716-778-8844

WATER/SEWER  
MAINTENANCE  
716-778-8587

6176 McKee Street  
Newfane, New York  
14108

TDD 1-800-662-1220

### Notice From the Assessor's Office

There has been a lot of discussion and inquiries regarding the change to the Veterans 100% disability exemption. I have inquired as to what the requirements are to qualify for the exemption. I am currently still researching what forms need to be submitted along with which offices at the Veterans Administration the forms would be submitted to, to qualify for this exemption. This is NOT a blanket exemption for all veterans with a 100% disability rating. Despite public perception, the law does not provide a total exemption for all veterans receiving a 100% disability compensation rating from the VA.

Below is what I have found so far. Please remember that this legislation is still in an infancy form and the submission process is very fluid as to what forms will be used along with any changes that may occur.

To qualify, a veteran must meet **all 4 of** the following criteria:

1. Have a qualifying condition under NYS Veterans' Services Law, defined as:
  - o Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), **or**
  - o Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), **or**
  - o Military Sexual Trauma (MST), **or**
  - o Be a discharged LGBT Veteran with an other-than-dishonorable or bad conduct discharge; **and**
2. Have a **100% disability rating** with a **Permanent and Total** designation from the VA; **and**
3. Have a **Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU)** designation from the VA; **and**
4. Qualify for the VA's **specialty adapted housing grant**.

As of January of 2026, a proposed chapter amendment has been introduced in the legislature.

Here's what we know about the chapter amendment:

- The local option has been removed. The law would become mandatory.
- The chapter amendment clarifies that this new exemption is an additional exemption. It does not remove any previous exemptions for which a veteran may qualify.
- The act would take effect on taxable status dates occurring on and after October 1, 2026 rather than January 2, 2026. This means that anyone who qualifies would not see any changes to their property tax until Jan. of 2028.
- Nowhere in the amendment does it change the required qualifying conditions.

As updates arise, I will be posting information on the Town of Newfane website, Facebook page and will have flyers here in the Assessor's office.

Thank all of our Veterans for their service

Sincerely,

JoAnn Harig, Assessor  
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