

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Jackson Township Encourages Seniors and Disabled Residents To Apply to State Program Offering Property Tax Reimbursements**

*Program Protects Seniors and Disabled from Property Tax Increases;  
Eligible Residents Need to Apply Before Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline*

**JACKSON TOWNSHIP, N.J., Oct. 13th** – Jackson Township officials today encouraged senior citizens and disabled residents who've experienced increases in property taxes to apply to a state program that effectively protects qualified citizens from having to pay more in property taxes on their principal residences.

“There’s no place like home, until you find yourself in a position of being unable to pay major expenses like property taxes,” said Mayor Michael Reina. “While Jackson Township has reduced the local tax rate, property taxes are still a heavy burden for many of our residents, especially seniors and those who are disabled. That’s why I’m encouraging those who may be eligible for the state’s Senior Freeze Program to apply before the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The program can provide eligible citizens with reimbursements of \$1,000 or more to offset the impact of increasing property taxes.”

Administered by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, the Senior Freeze Program effectively protects eligible senior citizens and disabled individuals from increases in property taxes, or mobile home park site fees, on their principal residence. In recent years, the state has expanded eligibility for the program by increasing the income limit by more than 30 percent since 2017. Many reimbursements provided by the program exceed \$1,000.

Here's how the program works: Once an applicant is approved, the program uses the applicant's current total property taxes as a baseline, which the program then compares to property taxes that become due in following years. The difference between the baseline and any increase in property taxes is refunded to the applicant. In order to qualify for the reimbursement, taxpayers must meet all the eligibility requirements (as listed on the next page) each year.

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"For those living on a fixed income, this program can make a meaningful difference," Mayor Reina said. "We encourage everyone to check out the eligibility requirements, including those who may have not qualified in the past. The program's income caps have been increased, which now makes this resource available to many more people."

Eligibility requirements for the state's Senior Freeze Program include the following:

Age/Disability	Applicants, or applicant's spouse/civil union partner, must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 65 or older on December 31, 2020; or</li><li>• Currently receiving federal Social Security disability benefit payments (not benefit payments received on behalf of someone else) on or before December 31, 2020.</li></ul>
Residency	Applicants must have lived in New Jersey continuously since December 31, 2010 or earlier, as either a homeowner or a renter.
Home Ownership	<b>Homeowners.</b> Applicants must have owned and lived in their primary residence in NJ since December 31, 2017, or earlier, and must have still owned and lived in that home on December 31, 2021. <b>Mobile Homeowners.</b> Applicants must have leased a site in a mobile home park where they placed a manufactured or mobile home that they have owned since December 31, 2017, or earlier, and must have lived in that home/leased the site on December 31, 2021.
Property Taxes/ Site Fees	<b>Homeowners.</b> The 2020 property taxes due on an applicant's home must have been paid by June 1, 2021, and the 2021 property taxes must be paid by June 1, 2022. <b>Mobile Homeowners.</b> Applicants' site fees must have been paid by December 31 of each year respectively.
Income Limit	Applicant's total annual income (combined if married or in a civil union and lived in the same home) must have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For 2020: \$92,969 or less; and</li><li>• For 2021: \$94,178 or less</li></ul>

Applicants would not qualify for reimbursements from the Senior Freeze Program on a vacation home or second home; property that an applicant rents to someone else; property that consists of more than four units; or property with four units or less that contains more than one commercial unit. Also, properties that are exempt from property taxes, and properties that qualify for payments in lieu of actual taxes do not qualify.

For more information about the Senior Freeze Program and directions on how to apply, residents are encouraged to visit this page on the state Treasury Department's website:

<https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml>

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**About Jackson Township**

Jackson Township is a growing, suburban community that offers an ideal environment for families and businesses to grow and prosper. Covering over 100 square miles, Jackson Township is the fourth largest municipality, as measured by area, in the state of New Jersey, and is home to just 60,000 residents. The township boasts an excellent public school system and first-rate recreational facilities, including newly renovated parks and athletic fields. Situated in beautiful Ocean County, N.J., Jackson is located within a short drive from the Jersey Shore and about an hour's drive to New York City or Philadelphia. The township was incorporated in 1844. Visit Jackson Township's website at [www.jacksonwpnj.net](http://www.jacksonwpnj.net) for more information.