

Use It or Lose It.

Right now is your chance to push back on 2009 property taxes.

Property taxes in New York State are among the highest in the country, and in Monroe County we pay some of the highest taxes in the state. Towns are currently updating property assessment rolls for next year.

If you think your taxes are too high, now is the time to act.

Property owners have rights, too. Here's what you can do:

- ▶ Get an independent appraisal of your home for about \$300 so that you can compare its market value with your town's assessment.
- ▶ Go online to Monroe County's site to see residential property values—these are public records for anyone to view: www.monroecounty.gov/apps/propertyapp.php. Or check out www.zillow.com to find recent sales in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Each town has an informal grievance period when you can meet with your town's assessor and show proof that your home is assessed too high. You'll need comparative values/recent sales based on year built and sq. footage on your block or an independent appraisal.
- ▶ If you're not satisfied with what your town assessor tells you, your next step is to file a formal grievance. You'll present your case to a panel of three fellow residents selected by your town. For more details on property grievances, see www.orps.state.ny.us.
- ▶ You don't have to meet with your town's assessor during the informal period. You can file a formal grievance and your assessor, by law, must tell you what you need to do.

Formal town grievances are held the 4th Tuesday in May across Monroe County, except for East Rochester. Depending on where you live, you may still have time to do some homework and meet informally with your town's assessor.

If you have proof that your assessment is too high—TAKE ACTION!

Town	Assessor	Phone Number	Informal Grievance Date
Brighton	Elaine Ainsworth	784-5215	Until April 30
Chili	Linda Leach	889-6132	By February 28
Clarkson	Pamela Dolliver	637-1135	Through March 31
E.Rochester*	Nicholas Morabito	381-5151	Through May 1
Gates	Knoeleen Griffin	247-6100	By March 1
Greece	Leo Carroll	225-2000	Until April 10
Hamlin	Melanie Fahmer	964-8748	Until April 30
Henrietta	Nathan Gabbert	359-7032	By March 1
Irondequoit	Terry Huesby	336-6055	After March 1
Mendon	Michael Spiegel	624-5254	Before April 1
Ogden	Robert Criddle	617-6107	Through March 31
Parma	Donald Wells	392-9455	Through May 26
Penfield	Ann Buck	340-8610	Not until 2009 update
Perinton	Kathy Kramer	223-0770	By April 1
Pittsford	Stephen Robson	248-6230	By May 1
Riga	Joan Brundage	293-1124	Not until 2009 update
Rush	Kevin Quinlan	533-2330	By April 30
Sweden	Tony Eaffaidano	637-8683	Through May 26
Webster	Donna Komor	872-7050	By March 1
Wheatland	James Murphy	889-1553, x-105	Through March 31

Call Today *and* Push Back. It's your right as a homeowner!