

## Fremont NH – 2019 Tax Rate Release Information

We are in receipt of the 2019 tax rate. The Selectmen's Office, with input from the School District, has prepared this information for you in an effort to assist in your understanding of the 2019 rate. The new tax rate, set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration on October 31st is \$31.05 per thousand. This breaks down as follows:

|              | 2015           | 2016           | 2017           | 2018           | 2019           |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Town         | 4.37           | 3.89           | 4.44           | 4.77           | 4.73           |
| Local School | 21.32          | 22.65          | 21.34          | 21.10          | 22.76          |
| State School | 2.28           | 2.30           | 2.32           | 2.42           | 2.43           |
| County       | 1.03           | 1.04           | 1.09           | 1.11           | 1.13           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$29.00</b> | <b>\$29.88</b> | <b>\$29.19</b> | <b>\$29.40</b> | <b>\$31.05</b> |

Major changes took place in 2019 as we felt the effects of reduced State and Federal Funding for education. This is the first big increase in the rate in several years, and is due in large part to improvements to infrastructure including significantly overdue repairs to the Ellis School roof.

That 2015 tax year was our most recent revaluation, and the next one is scheduled for 04/01/2020. The changes in values will make 2020 quite dynamic, and the overall impacts of budgets and property values will not be fully evident until the Fall 2020 tax rate setting process, when the new values are all complete and entered in the billing system.

A key component to the annual setting of the tax rate is the total amount of town-wide assessed valuation. This is the total value of all taxable land and buildings in Fremont. We did not see significant increase in values 2019 and in fact lost value due to statutory changes in how utilities are viewed for property tax purposes. The values have changed as follows:

| Year                     | 2015          | 2016          | 2017          | 2018          | 2019          |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Assessed Valuation | \$389,025,519 | \$399,735,833 | \$405,960,200 | \$409,848,930 | \$410,788,368 |

In 2018 the School District returned \$574,231 in unassigned fund balance which significantly worked to balance the tax impacts of that year. This was not available as an offset this year. This year, the School District returned \$52,388 from unassigned fund balance and additional funds of \$95,973 of unanticipated revenue due to an increase in the state adequacy grant. If you have specific questions about the school expenses, you should contact the Superintendent's Office, SAU #83 at 432 Main Street, Fremont NH at 895 6903.

The State School tax portion increased by one penny per thousand in 2019.

If you have specific questions about the Town's portion of the tax rate, they can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall at 895 2226 x 301 or x 303.

As in all years, the local tax rates (Town and School) are a direct reflection of the action and votes taken by the voters of Fremont at the annual Town and School District Deliberative Sessions, following by March ballot voting. The Selectmen, School Board and Budget Committee are currently working on the budgets for the next respective fiscal years. Budget Committee meetings are held on Wednesday evenings and are broadcast on FCTV 22. The Public Budget Hearing will be held on 01/15/2020 at the Town Hall; and Deliberative Sessions will be held in early February at Ellis School. All dates are on the website calendar.

The portion of the Rockingham County budget attributable to Fremont increased by \$6,346 to a total of \$462,647, but the increase in valuation kept the County rate increase to two cents. Veteran Credits increased by \$10,750 to \$125,250. Elderly, disabled and blind exemptions increased by \$22,300 to \$1,460,000.

Current use values did not change significantly, due to the slight variation in the Town's equalized valuation. There was new value attributable to new homes, garages, sheds, and other property value improvements and the expiration of the telephone exemption. Additions to the tax base help to offset expenditures increases and more evenly balance the tax rate.

The Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall will be open the following dates for payment of taxes:

Monday & Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon  
Tuesday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Wednesday 3:00 to 7:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**SECOND ISSUE TAX BILLS ARE DUE  
DECEMBER 5, 2019**

\*You can drop your bill off while the Selectmen's Office is open, or in the drop box, but can not get a receipt unless you see the Collector's Office, or leave a stamped return envelope with your payment. \*

If you have questions about your assessment or an abatement, credit or exemption, please feel free to stop by the Selectmen's Office for information. All property assessing records are public information. You can access the information online from the Town's website at <https://www.fremont.nh.gov/assessing/pages/online-property-look>. We send updates in several times a year to the Vision site, and you can see the most recent date of updates when you log on. The Selectmen's Office is open Monday and Friday 8:00 am to 12 noon; Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and this is where the most current information is housed. We will also be glad to mail you out your property card to you, if you call or email and make a request.

If you feel that your property is disproportionately assessed, or there are listing errors on your card, you can file an abatement. Our abatement information sheet is available at the Town Offices and on the town website at <https://www.fremont.nh.gov/assessing/pages/abatements>. Abatement forms are also available at the Selectmen's Office. You need Form *Taxpayers 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality*. You can also call or email the Selectmen's Office and we will send one out to you. Abatement forms are DUE no later than Monday MARCH 2, 2020 at 12 noon. A postmark of up to March 1, 2020 WILL be accepted. Postmarks after March 1, 2020 cannot be accepted.

You can drop off tax payments with a stamped self-addressed returned envelope, and the Collector will mail out your receipt. The Selectmen's Office and Tax Collector's Office are located at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street; on the main floor.

Fremont Selectmen's Office  
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10/31/2019