

Sayers, Margery

From: Vincentlrry <Vincentlrry@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: senior tax relief

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am a 69 widow of a Navy Reservist and have lived in my home in Columbia, MD since April 1983. Would this relief apply to me? And if so how do I apply?

Thank you
Sue Vincent

410-707-4787

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sayers, Margery

From: Brenda <bgkaufman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Any possibility of continuing Aging in Place credit?

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi,

I am in the Aging in Place Property tax credit program. I noticed while getting ready to send in my annual renewal statement of Eligibility for 2021, that it's a 5-year program. For me that final date is 7/1/2021. Is there any chance the program will be extended? Neighbors are already leaving Maryland because of high taxes. An extension would at least help to some extent.

Thank you,
Brenda G. Kaufman
4194 Brittany Dr.
Ellicott City, MD. 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Ellen Frishberg <elfrishberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Bill 23-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you all for co-sponsoring this legislation.

We are seniors who have lived in HoCo for 29 years, and my husband retired from HCPSS. Same house for 28 of those years. But we sold that house in May 2020 to move into a more senior friendly townhouse across the street. While we will not qualify for this aging in place credit under any circumstances, you may want to consider **allowing this credit for people who remain residents of Howard County, not just those who live in the SAME residence**. Aging in place for us meant a move to a less expensive, more senior friendly home, but still in the county. Our tax bill remains a large part of our annual budget.

Thank you for caring about seniors.

Ellen Frishberg and Bob Gladding
8122 Calla Lilly Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

-
Ellen Frishberg, Ed.D
<elfrishberg@gmail.com>
410.313.9753 (home office)
410.963.5924 (mobile)

Sayers, Margery

From: Meredith Schwartz <meredithschwartz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:50 AM
To: CouncilMail; Jimmie Home
Subject: Council Bill 23-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you for introducing this bill.

My husband and I moved to Ellicott City in October of 1986 because my husband changed jobs. He accepted a position as a pastor at First Lutheran Church on Frederick Rd. We have lived in EC since that time BUT have lived in four different houses. Our zip code, however, has always been 21042.

Please address this concern: **While we have lived in the county for 38 years, we have not lived in the same house. Will we be included in the group that benefits from this bill?**

I hope that the answer to this question is **YES**. This bill will certainly help to keep us in Howard County when I retire (7/1/21) from HCPSS after 21 years. My husband retired 12/31/19 after being involved in a car accident that left him a paraplegic. We have done some remodeling of our home to make it accessible for him, including a ramp from our front door and are eager to stay in our home.

If the answer is **NO**, I think there will be a limited number of people who will benefit from this bill.

Thank you,
Meredith & Jimmie Schwartz
2812 Saint Johns Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-852-4313

Sayers, Margery

From: Toni Bluher <tbluher@access4less.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Council Bill 23-2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To the Howard County Council,

To me, the Council Bill 23-2021 does not seem like sound public policy. It creates incentives for the elderly to stay in their same house, even if the house is larger than needed or impractical due to its steps, etc. Also, by taking tax burden off one population, you shift it onto another. Other populations, such as young families raising children, need also be considered. I have lived before in California where I saw favorable property tax treatment to old-time residents result in a hellish burden for younger people. This was at a time where we were raising three young children, and was a primary reason why we left California.

Other critiques: It adds complexity to our tax system. It is likely to be a regressive tax action.

I am criticizing this legislation as someone near the 35-year threshold of living in Howard County who could potentially benefit from it in the not-so-distant future. Despite that we would potentially benefit, I think it is an unwise policy.

Yours,
Antonia Bluher
9722 Briarcliffe Lane
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: sharon femrite <svfemrite@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 40 to 35 year tax reduction

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

We moved to our home in Ellicott City in 1982, we are now in our 70's, my husband is a veteran. I cannot think of a better place to live. We have a low crime rate, excellent health care, a great library, beautiful parks and good schools. The one negative is the cost of living here. I understand that all the good things we have here depend upon tax monies. We have young families in our neighborhood with a lot of us older folks. The interaction of young and old makes living here so rewarding and is one of the reasons our neighborhood of Columbia Hills/Meadowbrook Farms is so wonderful. If lowering the tax rate for us older residents makes it possible to continue to live in Howard County, it would be appreciated. Young and old would benefit! Stay safe

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Exciting News!

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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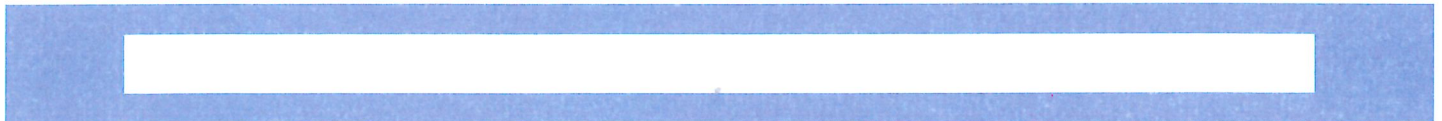


From: Stephen Feldman <stephenmarkfeldman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Exciting News!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Education, climate related costs and increased health costs can no longer be financed by accounting gimmicks. A wealthy county which largely escaped impact of COVID recession needs to tax it's many wealthy more. Not by raising regressive property tax. The do nothing legislators from Howard who produce hot air about PC BS need to go to their Assembly and get green light to tax more those, and there are many, whose wealth and assets soared in 2020. Let's watch the Woke Rich scream School budget, Health Budget and rental assistance for people in poverty needs to grow, not be cut.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021, 7:00 AM District 4 <djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:





NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: China Williams, 410-313-2001

cwilliams@howardcountymd.gov

Councilmembers Deb Jung and Opel Jones File Legislation to Expand Tax Credit to Help Seniors Age in Place

Ellicott City, MD (February 18, 2021) -- Councilmembers Deb Jung and Dr. Opel Jones co-introduced legislation that will allow those who have lived in their homes for 35 years or more and who are 65 years or older to take advantage of a tax credit to promote aging in place for the County's seniors. CB23-2021 will expand the residency requirement so that more longtime residents can take advantage of an annual property tax discount. The co-sponsors have been joined in support of this bill by their three Council colleagues.

"As co-introducer of this bill, I am so pleased that we are able to provide this assistance to those who have helped support our County for many years as taxpaying residents. Through their financial contributions, these longtime residents have helped make Howard County one of the best places to live in the Country. This bill recognizes their commitment to our community," said Councilmember Deb Jung.

In 2019 the General Assembly removed the 40-year residency minimum requirement from the Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals in Howard County statute. This enabling legislation then allowed the Howard County Council to expand the tax credit to individuals who have lived in the same home for 35 years. The bill includes a phased-in approach over the next three years. This tax credit provides a 20% discount up to \$500,000 of assessed property value for five non-consecutive years.

Councilmember Walsh noted, "What a perfect time to improve upon our aging-in-place tax credit, during a pandemic when we're still not able to vaccinate the eldest and most vulnerable among us and public health guidance still advises they stay healthy, at home. I am delighted to join a unanimous Council in our support of this bill."

"Through their decades of property tax payments and other contributions, thousands of long-time residents helped create much of what we enjoy in Howard County. I hope this expanded tax credit will help them remain a part of our community for years to come," said Councilmember Yungmann in support of the bill, which is truly a bipartisan effort.

The public will have an opportunity to testify on this bill on March 15th. The Councilmembers will vote on the legislation on April 5th.

To read CB23-2021, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/PrefiledLegislation.aspx>.

(410) 313-2001 fax: (410) 313-3297
<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov>

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Sent by djung@howardcountymd.gov powered by



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Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: press release

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: nadine.bernard@comcast.net <nadine.bernard@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: press release

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi Deb,

Thanks so much for co-introducing CB23-2021. Some seniors can really use this now. It ought to be helpful. I will share it with those that may want to do this sooner than later. Since all council members are in agreement, you really don't need testimony do you? If you do, I will provide something, but if everyone is in agreement I don't think it is necessary.

I saw you don't have to do it consecutively, which if I read it correctly, maybe this year I need the break, but next year I don't? Just as long as you don't exceed 5 years?

I want to know what to do to get a bill created for the State Legislation. Maybe you know? I want to change this so it isn't just a five year blip, and then you are back to square one. I am not sure why the state thinks people will be financially secure after 5 years, for those that may still be in their homes it would be a continued blessing that I am confident they will still need. I also feel any veteran who is disabled in war should be eligible. Being retired from the military is nice, but, some of these folks never served in a war. 100% disability is the extreme. Anyone disabled serving in a foreign war should receive this benefit. It honors them, and assists them. Perhaps I can convince the State Legislators to take this up next year, I just don't know how to do it.

Anyway, thanks for signing on to this, I do believe the help is needed.

Nadine Bernard
301-490-9022 h
443-745-6845 c

On 02/21/2021 10:16 PM Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Hi Nadine,

Wanted to forward the attached press release to you. Feel free to share. This will be a great benefit to our seniors, and has unanimous support in the Council!

My best to you,

Deb

Deb Jung

County Council

District 4

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: exciting news

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Diana Hall <dbhallmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: exciting news

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Deb,

While I agree that aging-in-place is an important goal, I don't understand why the proposed changes to the aging-in-place tax credit require living in the same house for 35 years. As a 34-year Howard County resident I have also paid "decades of property tax payments" and additionally have paid thousands of dollars in transfer and recording taxes when purchasing new homes within the County. As a home buyer, I have also been subject to increased tax basis relative to the previous owner, which also increases tax payments to the County. I think the "same house" requirement should be removed from your proposal.

Thank you,
Diana Hall

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: District 4 - Tax benefit for seniors proposal

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov <no-reply@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Actuary@comcast.net
Subject: District 4 - Tax benefit for seniors proposal

First Name: Stephen
Last Name: Meskin
Email: Actuary@comcast.net
Street Address: 5625 Vantage Point Rd.
City: Columbia
Subject: Tax benefit for seniors proposal

Message: Based on your news release, I do not understand the how the amount of tax relief an individual receives is determined. More generally, I don't understand why someone has to be in the same home for 35 years (or 40 under current rules) to qualify. I think that just number of years paying taxes and age should suffice to freeze ones tax liability because one that old is typically on a fixed income. To do otherwise seems unfair.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CB 23-2021 Aging in Place Tax Credit

Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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-----Original Message-----

From: Angie Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB 23-2021 Aging in Place Tax Credit

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Deb,

I was interested in this bill, which expands the tax credit to include more older adults, but I was puzzled by a statement that the credit is good for five NON-CONSECUTIVE years. I get the credit now, and I am sure we have been getting it for several years.

Since you are working on improving this program, I would like to suggest another big improvement that will not cost the county any money but will make it a much more "age-friendly" program. My annual renewal statement of eligibility for the Aging in Place tax credit requires me to submit 6 months of electric, natural gas, cable, or landline bills showing my address. Like many people, I do not get hard-copy bills and do not bother keeping my bills because they are online and I can look them up.

Many people no longer have a landline, and I do not have cable. BG&E is having a problem with their website, so I could not access my bill. I finally talked to a nice woman who is going to mail them to me, but it was a lot of hassle. I had a headache before finding success. The COUNTY sends out utility bills for water and sewer themselves. Why can't they access those themselves and spare me this effort? It would be a nice amendment to the bill to reduce this unnecessary burden on the citizen to send in the information. One of my repeated themes as I work with making the county more age-friendly (and citizen-friendly) is to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

I tried to look up the text of the bill, but the text does not come up on the Council website.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Exciting News!

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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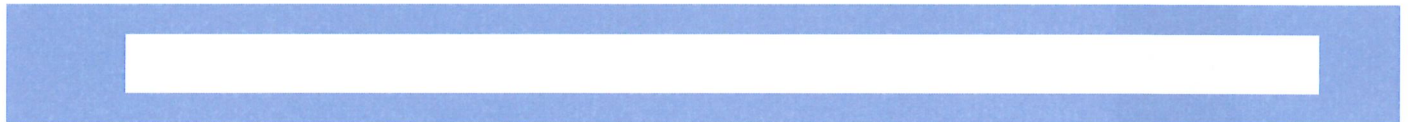


From: CLAIRE ALBERT <ecalbert@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:26 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Williams, China <ccwilliams@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: Exciting News!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

But are you going to extend the Five year limit for those who have received it for five years? It seems this might have been the last year for me. Claire Albert

On 02/22/2021 7:00 AM District 4 <djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:





NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: China Williams, 410-313-2001

cwilliams@howardcountymd.gov

Councilmembers Deb Jung and Opel Jones File Legislation to Expand Tax Credit to Help Seniors Age in Place

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The public will have an opportunity to testify on this bill on March 15th. The Councilmembers will vote on the legislation on April 5th.

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: press release on Aging In Place Tax Credit

Importance: High

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Jerome Carr <jcarr51@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:24 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: 'Jerome Carr' <jcarr51@verizon.net>
Subject: RE: press release on Aging In Place Tax Credit
Importance: High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Chair Jung,

I was not able to open the actual proposed legislation, but based on the description requiring the resident to live in the SAME HOME for 35 years, this will NOT help me and all of those constituents I have been describing to you.

The need is for legislation to provide the credit to individuals:

- Age 65 or older
- Who have lived in one or more residences in Howard County for at least 35 years, and
- Who continue to live in a residence in Howard County at the time of obtaining the tax credit

Again, the point is to cover long time Howard County individuals who have had residences in Howard County for at least 35 years (it could have been more if you wanted) and still have a residence in Howard County. This would cover those who go through a typical life cycle in ownership- perhaps a starter home or townhome, then another home to raise a family or otherwise for their main working life, and who then downsize to a senior style residence such as a 55 plus townhome or condo, or other smaller individual unit.

As proposed, the legislation misses the mark. Continuing to limit the credit to the SAME RESIDENCE throughout does not make the needed change that is otherwise permitted as I have previously indicated.

Please get back to me at your earliest opportunity as this is most upsetting and I am sure those I have remained in contact with regarding this matter will join me in despair after all this time. If I am misreading all of this I apologize, but as I sad, going through the links I could not see the specific legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerome (Jerry) Carr
jcarr51@verizon.net
443-257-9929 (c)
410-992-9618 (h)

From: Jung, Deb [<mailto:djung@howardcountymd.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 10:16 PM
To: Jerome Carr <jcarr51@verizon.net>
Subject: press release

Hi Jerome,

Wanted to forward the attached press release to you. Feel free to share. This will be a great benefit to our seniors, and has unanimous support in the Council!

My best to you,
Deb

Deb Jung
County Council
District 4

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: press release

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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From: Stefanie Feldman <steffiefeldman0929@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:14 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: press release

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi Deb,

Thanks for sending me the new bill that you are cosponsoring as it will enable more seniors to take advantage of the Aging In Place tax credit. It still does not deal with the issue that I am concerned with; it expires after five years as does the current one. I have been in my home for 50 years as a Howard County taxpayer and my Aging In Place tax credit expires next year as it has reached it's limit of five years. Would you be able to expand the limit to a total of 10 years instead of the current five?

Thanks for keeping me informed,

Stefanie Feldman

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 21, 2021, at 10:15 PM, Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Hi Stephanie,

Wanted to forward the attached press release to you. Feel free to share. This will be a great benefit to our seniors, and has unanimous support in the Council!

My best to you,
Deb

Deb Jung
County Council
District 4

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<2021-02-18-Press Release-Aging in Place.pdf>