

- **NEW for 2019**

2019-2020 Enacted State Budget includes several provisions impacting the STAR Program. To encourage property owners to register for the STAR credit, the budget:

- caps the annual growth in STAR exemption (Basic & Enhanced) savings at 0%, and
- reduces the income limit for the Basic STAR exemption from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

STAR credits, (also known as STAR credit check program) however, can continue to increase up to 2% annually (Basic & Enhanced) and the Basic income limit for the STAR credit remains \$500,000. You will receive a check directly from NYS Tax and Finance every year you qualify.

If you want to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit, there are two steps you need to take: 1) follow the instructions for [STAR exemption removal and renunciation](#) and 2) register with NYS Tax and Finance for the STAR credit. You can register by visiting www.tax.ny.gov or calling 518-457-2036.

Please note that the renunciation of a STAR exemption is irrevocable. This includes property owners who renounce their STAR exemption to switch to the credit; they CANNOT switch back to the exemption at a later time. **BE AWARE!** If you have an Escrow Account setup on your Mortgage, switching will create a short fall of approximately \$700 for the Basic. Double that amount for the Enhanced STAR.

For Albany County, send the renunciation form (RP-496) to:

Maggie Alix, Director
Albany County Real Property Services
112 State Street, Room 1340
Albany, NY 12207

Note: The County Director must approve your application before you can apply with the New York State Department of Tax and Finance for the STAR credit. You will be notified by email if you provide one.