

Outline

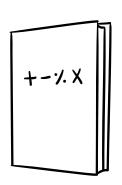




ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY

PROPERTY TAXES

A Brief History of Assessment



- Assessments are a determination made by an assessor as to:
 - 1. The "value" of real property
 - 2. Whether or not real property is subject to taxation or special levies
- Assessments have been in practice in the United States since 1798
 - First used by Federal Assessors for first United States direct property tax levy
- Modern assessment standards date back to 1971
 - Assessment Improvement Law

The Assessment of Real Property

- RPTL 300 ALL real property is subject to taxation unless exempt by law
- RPTL 302 ALL real property must be assessed according to condition and ownership as of March 1st (taxable status date)
- RPTL 304 ALL assessments are against the real property itself
- RPTL 305 ALL real property must be assessed at a uniform percentage of (market) value

THE GOAL
OF
ASSESSMENT

The fairest and most equitable distribution of the real property tax burden among taxpayers.



What is assessed for taxes?



Each property on an assessment roll is a **parcel** which is represented on the **tax map**.

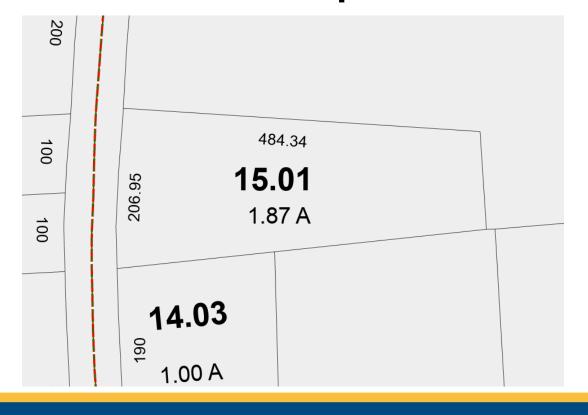
Parcels have boundaries as described in **deeds** and surveys.

The land and improvements (**Real Property**) within those boundaries determine what is assessed and valued.



Tax Parcels

Tax Map



Aerial Map



Taxable Status Date

All property is assessed according to its ownership and condition as of the **taxable status date**.

Ownership is used for **exemption** purposes which makes this the **deadline** for filing exemption applications.



Condition means the **current use** and the **physical status** of the real estate for determining its assessed value.

Taxable Status Date

Examples



- 1) A home under construction was not done on March 1st. Assessor valued it as complete. Assessment should represent a fraction of its value based on how much was finished.
- 2) A home that burns down on February 28th should be assessed for a now vacant lot since it's no longer physically there on March 1st.
- 3) BUT a home that burns down on March 2nd was physically there on March 1st so it gets assessed for the whole year.

Who Determines Assessments?



Assessor - locally appointed official

- Maintains assessment roll
- Determines or obtains market value estimates and establishes taxable status of parcels
- Processes exemption applications and determines eligibility
- Determines Level of Assessment (LOA) and sets assessed values

Who Uses Assessments?

%

Taxing Jurisdictions

- County
- Cities/Towns/Villages
- School
- Special Districts (Fire, Light, Water, Sewer)

Each taxing jurisdiction has a **Tax Levy** (amount to raise in taxes)

Taxable Assessments apportion levy into individual tax bills

Market Values



- All property has value
 - Value created when there is utility, desire, need, or scarcity
 - Land has utility, is scarce, unique, immobile, durable, and finite
 - Because **people** find land useful **people** give it value
- No one "sets" market values they are extracted from the Market.
 - Valid real estate sales "Arms Length"
 - The dollar amount that the real property could reasonably sell for on the market

Market Value Trends

Data from NYS DTF pre-decisional collaboration (PDC) reports 2022-2024

| | Sales From 2020- 2021 | Sales From 2021- 2022 | Sales From 2022- 2023 | Total Prior Three Years |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Residential | 10% | 12% | 8% | 30% |
| Commercial | 3% | 4% | 5% | 12% |
| Vacant Land | 5% | 8% | 12% | 25% |

Three Approaches to Market Values

- 1. Sales Comparison Approach
- 2. Cost Approach
- 3. Income Capitalization Approach

Sales Comparison Approach

5-Step Process

- Collect data on sales, listings, offerings, and contracts of similar properties to subject
- 2) Analyze data to determine if sales are comparable to subject
- 3) Develop units of comparison between subject and sales
- 4) Adjust comparable sales prices to reflect dissimilarities to subject
- 5) Reconcile adjusted sale prices into single value opinion

Cost Approach

5-Step Process

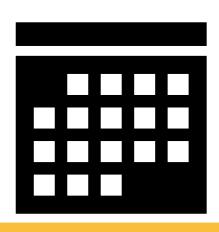
- 1) Develop opinion on land value
- 2) Estimate the reproduction or replacement cost new of improvements
- 3) Deduct depreciations (physical, functional, external)
- 4) Estimate value of site improvements/accessory buildings
- 5) Reconcile land value, depreciated improvement value, and site improvement/accessory buildings values

Income Capitalization Approach

6-Step Process

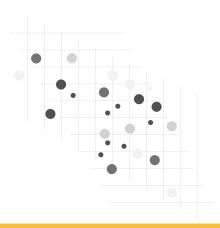
- 1) Estimate subject's potential gross income (PGI)
- 2) Derive loss from vacancy and collection (V&C)
- 3) Deduct V&C from PGI to determine effective gross income (EGI)
- Estimate annual expenses relating to property and deduct from EGI to determine net operating income (NOI)
- Develop capitalization rate or multiplier (published or derived from market)
- 6) Convert income into value via rate (direct capitalization Ro or yield capitalization Yo) or multiplier (PGIM, EGIM, or NIM)

Valuation Date



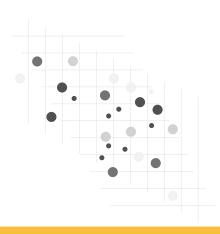
- Like Taxable Status Date, all property is assessed based on its value as of a single date.
 - Valuation Date: July 1st of the prior year
 - In other words, based on the condition as of March 1st, what would the property have sold for in last July's real estate market.

Fee Appraisal? or Mass appraisal?



- Fee Appraisal is an individual determination of value on a single property
 - Only concerned with finding value of 1 property
 - Typically done by a single person
 - Quality control based on the judgement and depth of research undertaken by appraiser
- Mass appraisal is a determination of value on a universe of properties as of the same date and time
 - Concerned with maintaining equity in value between parcels
 - May involve different individuals at different stages of process
 - Quality control measured with statistical testing to gauge consistency of values

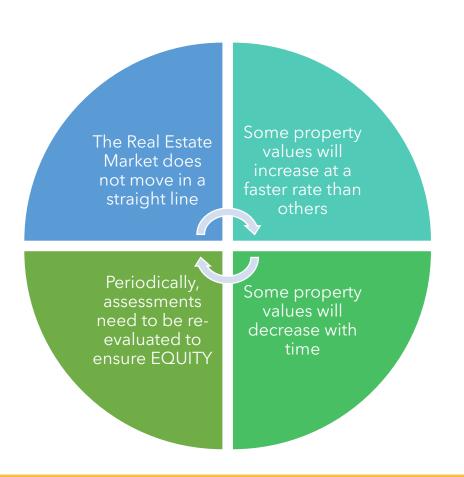
Mass Valuation



- CAMA Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal
 - Values a large group of properties at the same time using common methods and data
 - Applies the 3 Approaches to Value on a "mass" scale to apply market trends across more than one property
 - Most cost-effective way to value a universe of properties at once
 - Commonly used in Reassessments/Revaluation

Reassessments and Revaluation

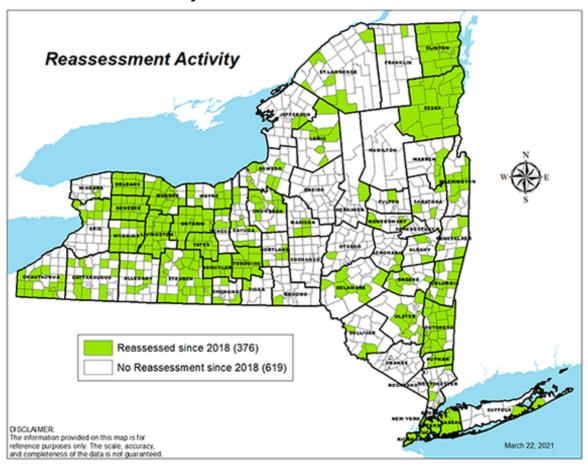




Reassessment Activity

Data from NYS DTF Market Value Survey

| Assessing Unit | Year of Last Reassessment | Assessing Unit | Year of Last Reassessment |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Fulton | 2022 | Orwell | 2017 |
| Oswego City | 2011 | Oswego Town | 2011 |
| Albion | 2021 | Palermo | 2022 |
| Amboy | 2014 | Parish | 2011 |
| Boylston | 2011 | Redfield | 2015 |
| Constantia | 2010 | Richland | 2008 |
| Granby | 2018 | Sandy Creek | 2011 |
| Hannibal | 2013 | Schroeppel | 2006 |
| Hastings | 2021 | Scriba | 2018 |
| Mexico | 2014 | Volney | 2017 |
| Minetto | 2011 | West Monroe | 2023 |
| New Haven | 2019 | Williamstown | 2016 |



33% of Oswego County municipalities have reassessed since 2018 which is lower than the state average of 38%.

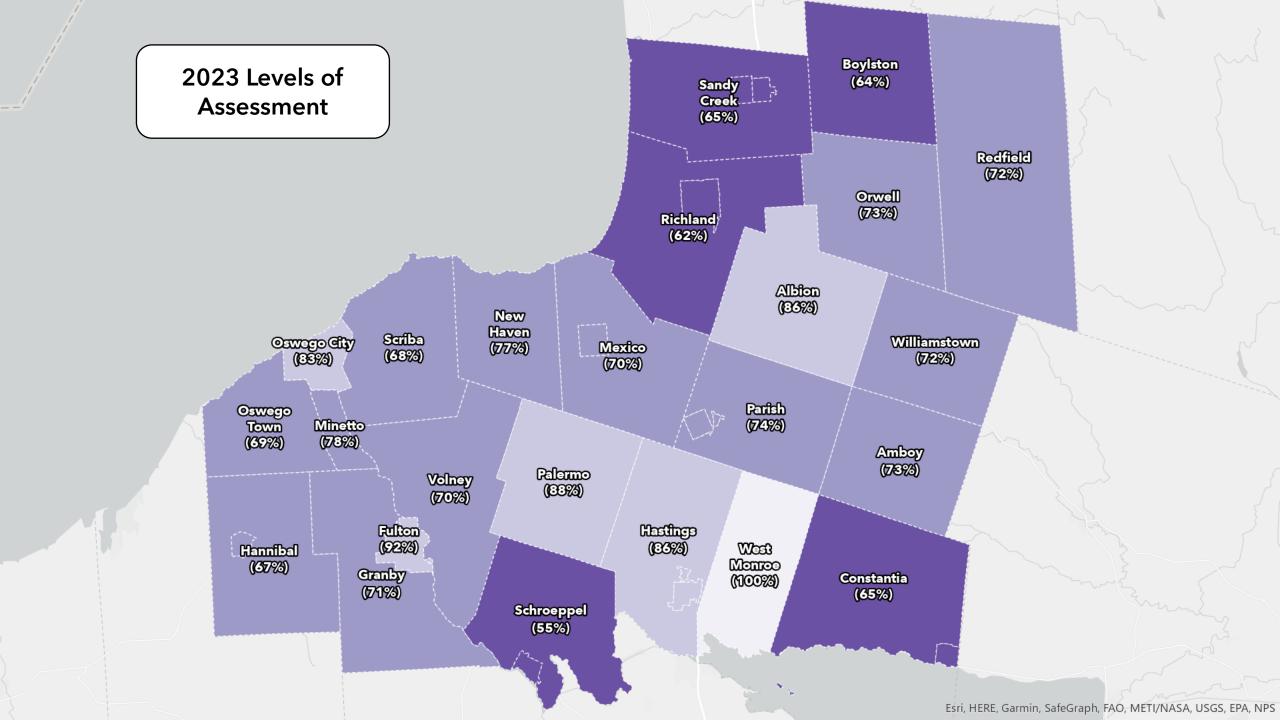
RPTL § 305
Assessment methods and standard

[...] 2. All real property in each assessing unit shall be assessed at a uniform percentage of value (fractional assessment) [...]

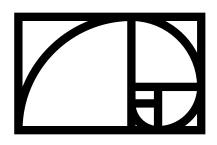
Level of Assessment



- The Assessed value of a property is related to the Market value
- Each municipality has their own Level of Assessment (LOA)
 - LOA of 100% means Assessed Value = Market Value
 - LOA of 50% means Assessed Value = 50% of Market Value
- LOA usually reduces annually due to increasing Market values unless regular reassessments are conducted

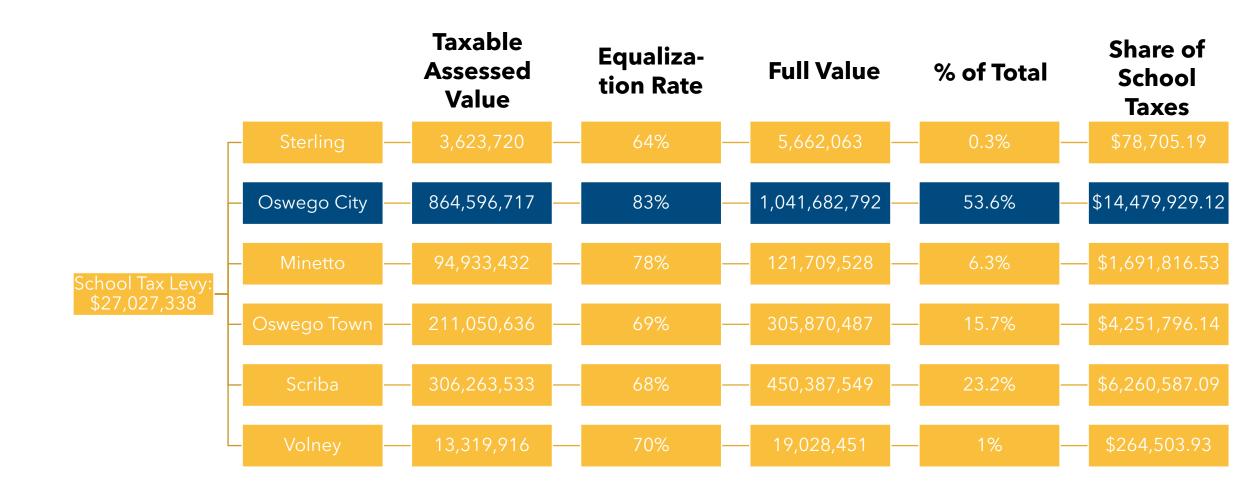


Equalization Rates



- NYS also measures the ratio of Assessed Value to Market Value
 - Ratios are called "Equalization Rates"
 - Rate use to "equalize" values when tax levy includes more than 1 assessing unit at different LOA
- Both LOA and ER are measures of assessment equity on a **municipal-wide scale**.
 - May not be accurate for individual properties
 - Unless a Reassessment was done recently individual market values are probably not accurately producing comparative tax bills across taxing districts
 - Not important for City/Town/Village taxes but very important for County/School taxes.

Apportionment Using EQ Rates



Apportionment Using EQ Rates



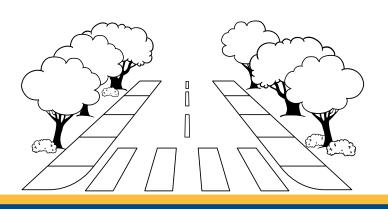
Property Taxes

A Brief
History of
The Real
Property
Tax

- In NYS, can be dated back to 1654 (Dutch New York Colony)
- In those days, determined as a quota of tax to be collected by Counties
 - County in turn determined quota for each town/ward
 - Town/ward divided quota among land parcels based on "whatsoever have been deemed the worth or value thereof"

Property Taxes

The Real Property Tax



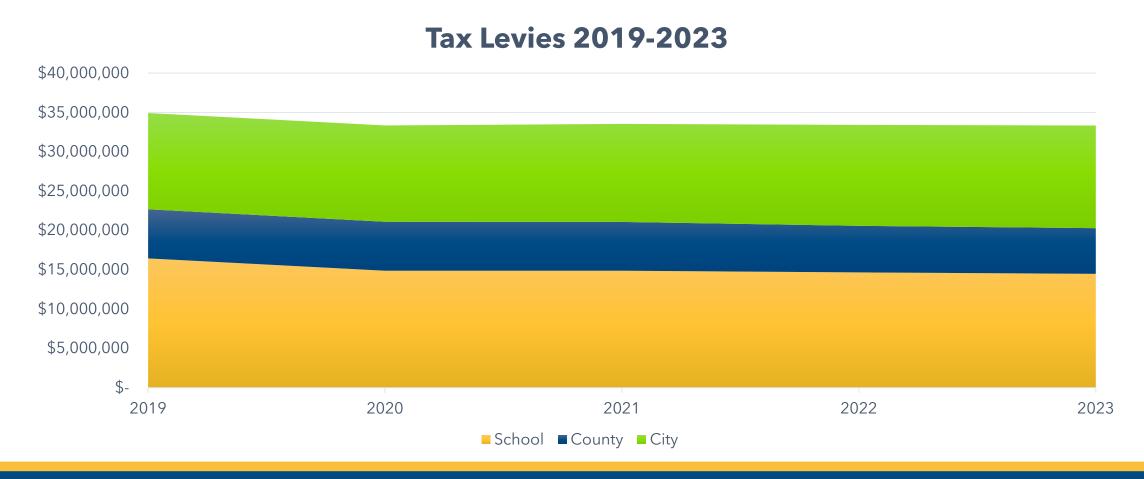
Ad Valorem Tax - tax according to "value"

Largest source of funds to meet Municipal and School **Budgets**

Layered Tax System

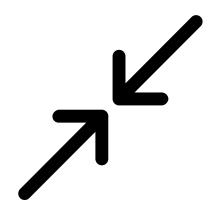
- 1. Assessed once by local assessor
- 2. Taxed by each jurisdiction using assessor's value

Property Taxes



Property Tax Exemptions

Exemptions are **relief from taxation** by providing partial or full relief from the payment of taxes for eligible properties.



Unless a property is exempt in some capacity, all real property is subject to taxation in New York State.

Exemption Types

How the property is used

e.g. Agricultural exemptions

Membership in an exempt class

e.g. Veteran of foreign war

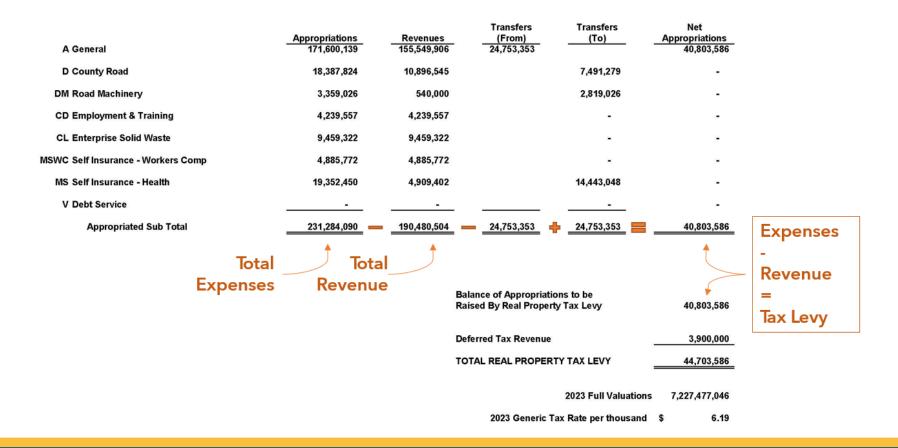
Owner(s) ability to pay

e.g. Low-Income Senior Exemption Desire of State/Local government to encourage economic or social growth and activity

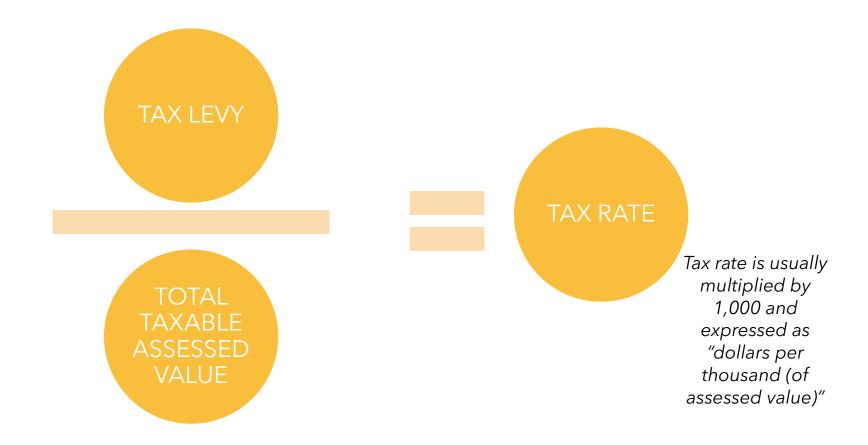
> e.g. Business Improvement or Solar/Wind Exemptions

The Tax Levy

Oswego County 2023 Summary of Budgets - By Fund

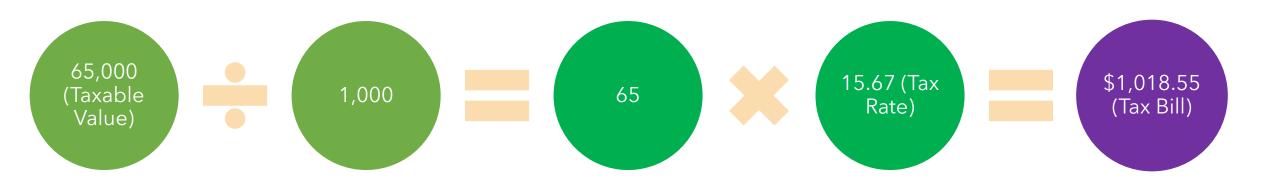


The Tax Rate



Tax Bills 101

- Taxable Value
 - Assessment less any partial exemption
- Divided by 1000
- Multiplied by Tax Rate



| Valuation Date | July 1 st (of last year) | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Taxable Status Date Exemption Filing Deadline | March 1st | |
| Tentative Roll Filed | May 1st | |
| Grievance Day Varies in towns with shared Assessor | 4 th Tuesday in May | |
| Final Roll Filed | July 1st | |

Key Dates in the Assessment Process

Online Resources





those topics please click or tap the following:

Online Resources



Oswego County



DTF Links

Oswego County Search

Fill in one or more of the fields below to find a property.

| Municipality | All Municipalities | ~ |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| Tax ID / SBL | | |
| Last Name * | | |
| First Name * | | |
| Street # | | |
| Street Name | | |
| Site Type | Any Site Type | ~ |
| Status | Any Status | ~ |
| F | Reset Search | |

Switch to Basic Search

IMO Version 20.10 (data updated on 03/19/2024)

https://rptsweb.oswegocounty.com/

^{*} For corporate or business names, it is usually best to search in the last name field.

Review

- 1. All real property is assessed
- 2. Assessor determines market values
- 3. Assessment is based on market value
- 4. Taxing jurisdictions impose taxes
- 5. Assessments determine share of taxes by parcel