



CITY OF PONTIAC

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Department of Finance-City Treasurer

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Mayor Tim Greimel, and Deputy Mayor Khalfani Stephens

CC: Porche Prater, Treasurer
Tim Sadowski, Finance Director

DATE: January 23, 2024

RE: Resolution for the Pontiac City Council to Approve Establishing Policy and Guidelines for Granting a Hardship Exemption from Payment of Property Taxes

In accordance with Chapter 4, Section 5.414 of Pontiac City Charter, the City Treasurer is responsible for the collection of property taxes.

Relatedly, MCL 211.7u of Public Act 253 of 2020 obligates local municipalities to determine the rules that the Board of Review utilizes in granting hardship property tax reductions for principal homes.

As such, the governing body must adopt all guidelines prior to the Board of Review granting property tax reductions to homeowners.

The City Treasurer has updated the City of Pontiac's poverty exemption policy in alignment with Public Act 253 for FY 2023-2024 for City Council's consideration and formal approval.

Resolution of the Pontiac City Council



24-22 **Resolution to Approve the Policy and Guidelines for Granting a Hardship Exemption from Payment of Property Taxes.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Parker.

WHEREAS, Public Act 253 of 2020 (“Act”), requires the governing body of each city and township to determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines the Board of Review utilizes in granting reductions in property assessments due to limited income and assets, referred to as “Poverty Exemptions;” and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Council to adopt guidelines in compliance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, that to be eligible for a poverty exemption, a person shall do all of the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. The subject property must be classified as a single-family residential parcel or residential condominium property with a valid homeowner’s Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) currently in effect.
3. Submit completed Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption and Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty.
4. Submit the most recent year’s copies of the following for all persons residing in the homestead:
 - a. Produce a valid driver's license or Michigan State Identification card for all persons residing in the household.
 - b. Federal Income Tax Return-1040, 1040A or 1040E and Michigan Income Tax Return- MI 1040, MI1040A or MI1040EZ.
 - c. Senior Citizens Homestead Property Tax Form MI-1040CR-1 or General Homestead Property Tax Claim MI-1040CR-4.
 - d. Benefit Statement from ADC, Pension, Retirement, Social Security Administration and/or Michigan Social Services as to money paid to you during previous year. (along with a signed form 4988).
5. Produce a copy of the deed, land contract or other evidence of parcel ownership of all real property owned by the applicant if requested by the Board of Review; and

WHEREAS, that applicant(s) must complete the application form in its entirety and return to the Treasurer's or Equalization Office. Any application submitted to the Board of Review which has not been filled out in its entirety shall be denied by the Board of Review. Appeals of said denial shall be made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; and

WHEREAS, that applicant(s) may apply for Poverty Exemption to only one session of the Board of Review (March, July, or December) and any appeal of the Board's decision shall be made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; and

WHEREAS, that the Board of Review can request any other additional information including additional tax returns, financial statements, land contracts, personal or family trust documents, vehicle titles and any other records or affidavits that the Board may deem necessary in order to make a poverty exemption determination, asset limit determination or income level determination; and

WHEREAS, that completed applications may be brought to the Board of Review on the day of an appointment, but to have timely consideration by the Board, the application-with supporting documents-should be made available to the Board one (1) week prior to the meeting date; and

WHEREAS, that applications may be reviewed and acted upon by the Board of Review without applicant(s) being present. However, the Board may request that any or all applicants be physically present to respond to any questions the Board of Review may have. This means that an applicant may be called to appear on short notice; and

WHEREAS, that the Board of Review shall follow the policy and guidelines set forth above when granting and denying poverty exemptions. The same standards shall apply to each taxpayer within the city claiming the poverty exemption for the assessment year; and

WHEREAS, that the allowed reduction for hardship exemption shall be 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100% of Taxable Value of the homestead for the tax year and at their discretion, the Board may approve full or partial exemption if deemed appropriate; and

WHEREAS, that the applicant's total household income cannot exceed 125% of the most current Federal Poverty Guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as established by the State Tax Commission-to be updated annually; and

WHEREAS, that a poverty exemption shall not be granted to any applicant whose assets exceed \$100,000. An applicant's homestead and principal vehicle shall be excluded from consideration as an asset. All other property, including from all other persons residing in the household, shall be included as an asset. Property shall include, but is not limited to cash, savings, stocks, mutual funds, insurance commodities, coin collections, art, motor vehicles, recreation vehicles, etc.; and

WHEREAS, that any reduction in the State Equalized Value of a property is granted for one year only and must be applied for and reviewed annually based on the applicant's current situation; and

WHEREAS, PA 191 of 2023 amends both MCL 211.7u and MCL 211.53b to allow the July and December Board of Review to grant a poverty exemption, as a qualified error, for the immediately preceding year on the principal residence of a person who establishes eligibility as requires by Section 7u if an exemption was not on the assessment toll and was not previously denied.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a person filing a poverty exemption claim is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property for which that claim is made before the March Board of Review in the same year and the July and December Board of Review as a qualified error, for the immediately preceding year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Public Act 253 of 2020, the Pontiac City Council approves the 2024 Policy and Guidelines for granting an exemption from payment of property taxes.

Ayes: Carrington, Goodman, James, McGuinness, and Parker

No: None

Resolution Passed

Councilperson Rutherford was absent for the vote.

I, Garland S. Doyle, City Clerk of the City of Pontiac, hereby certify that the above Resolution is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Pontiac on January 23, 2024.


GARLAND S. DOYLE, City Clerk



POVERTY GUIDELINES

For Use in 2024 Assessments

US Department of Health & Human Services

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
For each additional person	\$5,140

ASSETS- A hardship exemption shall not be granted to any applicant whose assets exceed \$100,000. An applicant's homestead and principal vehicle shall be excluded from consideration as an asset.

Assets include all other property, including from all other persons residing in the household. Property shall include, but is not limited to cash, savings, stocks, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, insurance commodities, coin collections, boats, jewelry, art, motor vehicles, recreation vehicles, second homes, cottages or any other saleable real property or other tangible items.

Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption

This form is issued under the authority of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, MCL 211.7u.

MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, provides a property tax exemption for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges. This application is to be used to apply for the exemption and must be filed with the Board of Review where the property is located. This application may be submitted to the city or township the property is located in each year on or after January 1.

To be considered complete, this application must: 1) be completed in its entirety, 2) include information regarding all members residing within the household, and 3) include all required documentation as listed within the application. Please write legibly and attach additional pages as necessary.

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION — Petitioner must list all required personal information.				
Petitioner's Name			Daytime Phone Number	
Age of Petitioner	Marital Status	Age of Spouse	Number of Legal Dependents	
Property Address of Principal Residence		City	State	ZIP Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if applied for Homestead Property Tax Credit		Amount of Homestead Property Tax Credit		
PART 2: REAL ESTATE INFORMATION				
List the real estate information related to your principal residence. Be prepared to provide a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property at the Board of Review meeting.				
Property Parcel Code Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
PART 3: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION				
List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you own, or are buying, other property. If checked, complete the information below.			Amount of Income Earned from other Property	
1	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid
2	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid

PART 4: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION — List your current employment information.					
Name of Employer					
Address of Employer		City	State	ZIP Code	
Contact Person		Employer Telephone Number			
PART 5: INCOME SOURCES					
List all income sources, including but not limited to: salaries, Social Security, rents, pensions, IRAs (individual retirement accounts), unemployment compensation, disability, government pensions, worker's compensation, dividends, claims and judgments from lawsuits, alimony, child support, friend or family contribution, reverse mortgage, or any other source of income, for all persons residing at the property.					
Source of Income			Monthly or Annual Income (indicate which)		
PART 6: CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION					
List any and all savings owned by all household members, including but not limited to: checking accounts, savings accounts, postal savings, credit union shares, certificates of deposit, cash, stocks, bonds, or similar investments, for all persons residing at the property.					
Name of Financial Institution or Investments	Amount on Deposit	Current Interest Rate	Name on Account	Value of Investment	
PART 7: LIFE INSURANCE — List all policies held by all household members.					
Name of Insured	Amount of Policy	Monthly Payments	Policy Paid in Full	Name of Beneficiary	Relationship to Insured
PART 8: MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION					
All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, motor homes, camper trailers, etc.) held or owned by any person residing within the household must be listed.					
Make	Year	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed		

PART 9: HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS — List all persons living in the household.				
First and Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant	Place of Employment	\$ Contribution to Family Income

PART 10: PERSONAL DEBT — List all personal debt for all household members.					
Creditor	Purpose of Debt	Date of Debt	Original Balance	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed

PART 11: MONTHLY EXPENSE INFORMATION			
The amount of monthly expenses related to the principal residence for each category must be listed. Indicate N/A as necessary.			
Heating	Electric	Water	Phone
Cable	Food	Clothing	Health Insurance
Garbage	Daycare	Car Expense (gas, repair, etc.)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	

NOTICE: Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year must be submitted with this application. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year.

PART 11: POLICY AND GUIDELINES ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used for the granting of exemptions under MCL 211.7u. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the applicant must meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42 USC 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit so long as the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. The policy and guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets. The combined assets of all persons must not exceed the limits set forth in the guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit.

The applicant has reviewed the applicable policy and guidelines adopted by the city or township, including the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

PART 12: CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this form is complete, accurate and I am eligible for the exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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This application shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the local unit's December Board of Review.

Decision of the March Board of Review may be appealed by petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31 of the current year. A July or December Board of Review decision may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by petition within 35 days of decision. A copy of the Board of Review decision must be included with the petition.

Michigan Tax Tribunal
PO Box 30232
Lansing MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-9760
E-mail: taxtrib@michigan.gov

Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed. <input type="checkbox"/> The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home. <input type="checkbox"/> After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.			
PART 5: CERTIFICATION			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.			
Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)		Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	Date
Designee must attach a letter of authority.			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
CERTIFICATION — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor Signature		Date Certified by Assessor	

Poverty Exemption Affidavit

This form is issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1893; MCL 211.7u.

INSTRUCTIONS: When completed, this document must accompany a taxpayer's Application for Poverty Exemption filed with the supervisor or the board of review of the local unit where the property is located. MCL 211.7u provides for a whole or partial property tax exemption on the principal residence of an owner of the property by reason of poverty and the inability to contribute toward the public charges. MCL 211.7u(2)(b) requires proof of eligibility for the exemption be provided to the board of review by supplying copies of federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including property tax credit returns, or by filing an affidavit for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns for the current or preceding tax year.

I, _____, swear and affirm by my signature below that I reside in the principal residence that is the subject of this Application for Poverty Exemption and that for the current tax year and the preceding tax year, I was not required to file a federal or state income tax return.

Address of Principal Residence: _____

Signature of Person Making Affidavit

Date

CITY OF PONTIAC INCOME GUIDELINES
125% FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

Family Size	Income Limit	125% (1.25 x)
1	\$ 14,580	\$ 18,225
2	\$ 19,720	\$ 24,650
3	\$ 24,860	\$ 31,075
4	\$ 30,000	\$ 37,500
5	\$ 35,140	\$ 43,925
6	\$ 40,280	\$ 50,350
7	\$ 45,420	\$ 56,775
8	\$ 50,560	\$ 63,200
1+'s	\$ 5,140	\$ 6,425