

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE IS MOVING**

The Charleston County Assessor's office will relocate from downtown Charleston to Faber Place in the Fall of 2017. The specific address in Faber Place will be provided later. The exact move date is not known at this time – but is currently scheduled for between October 1, 2017 and the middle of November, 2017. **CALL 843-958-4144 for an update on the move** to ensure you do not go to the wrong location. That telephone line is a dedicated line containing only information on the move, no operators will take calls on that line.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEGAL RESIDENCE APPLICATION**  
**FOR ANY QUESTIONS CALL THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AT**  
**843-958-4100**

Other offices will not be able to answer your questions accurately– Call the Assessor's office

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- All questions *must* be answered completely and all required documents/proof *must* be supplied
  - Incomplete applications or those missing documents/proof will not be processed
- Provide a written explanation if information/documents are not available
  - We will perform further research and verification and contact you if necessary
- If married, your spouse must sign and provide all required documentation even if he or she has no ownership of the property and/or does not occupy the property
- Do not email or fax the completed application, original signatures are required. Mail or hand deliver the application to the address on the application form.

**MINIMUM REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

Send legible copies of required documents and proof – do not send us YOUR original documents

- SC Driver's License/Identification card for all owner occupants AND spouse
- SC motor vehicle registration showing current address for all owner occupants AND spouse
  - For company cars – provide registration showing business address
- Copy of SC Voter Registration card for all owner occupants AND spouse
- Tax returns: Redacted copy of first two pages of most recently filed Federal income tax return (1040 and Schedules A, C, E & Form 8829 if applicable) AND redacted copy most recently filed SC or *other* state income tax return. For SC income tax returns supply first 3 pages only
  - See example on reverse for how and what to redact on your tax returns
  - Returns for both owner-occupant AND spouse must be supplied
  - If you have filed an extension, provide most recently filed complete federal/state return AND a copy of your filed extension. Your complete returns may be requested later
  - If you have any questions about how we protect your information call the Charleston County Assessor's office at (843) 958-4100.
- If separated or divorced: provide court ordered separate support & maintenance agreement or divorce decree.
- For active duty MILITARY ONLY- provide the following: Military Identification, copy of current orders, copy of current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES). Redact income information from LES.
  - Military members AND their spouses must provide driver's license(s), vehicle registration(s) and voter registration(s) regardless of where licensed or registered.
- If owner or spouse is a citizen of another country, provide copy of permanent residence card.
- Additional documentation must be provided where applicable.
  - i.e. copies of: trusts, bond for title, operating agreement for single member LLC's, etc.
- If you do not have the required documentation or proof but still feel you qualify, call the Assessor's office and we will be happy to discuss your situation with you.

If we can assist you in any way, please contact the Assessor's office at (843) 958-4100

OR

Visit [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org),

**HOW TO REDACT YOUR TAX RETURNS:**

Redact the return as shown (SC and other state returns have similar information to the 1040) using a heavy marker or pen to cover up:

- Social Security Numbers
- Account numbers
- Routing numbers and
- Income amounts

If a line is blank – leave it blank.

If a line is filled in with a zero – leave the zero.

If a line contains an N/A – leave the N/A.

The income amounts (dollar figures) are typically not needed for this process but it *is* necessary during the approval process for the Assessor’s Office to know if some lines contained data. Therefore, do not cover up the lines with plain paper and do not fold the form when copying to hide the income lines.

If you have any questions about redacting or about what parts of the returns are needed, call the Assessor’s Office at 843-958-4100. Customer service representatives will be happy to assist you and answer your questions.

**Form 1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (999) **2012** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2012, or other tax year beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, ending \_\_\_\_\_, 20

Your first name and initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tax Payer**  
 If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions. \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
**101 Meeting Street**

**Exemptions**

**b Spouse**

<b>c Dependents:</b>	(1) First name	Last name	(2) Dependent's social security number	(3) Dependent's relationship to you	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if child under age 17 qualifying for child tax credit (see instructions)
<b>Tax Dependent</b>				daughter	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Income**

<b>7</b>	Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2	<b>7</b>	
<b>8a</b>	Taxable interest. Attach Schedule B if required	<b>8a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Tax-exempt interest. Do not include on line 8a	<b>8b</b>	
<b>9a</b>	Ordinary dividends. Attach Schedule B if required	<b>9a</b>	n/a
<b>b</b>	Qualified dividends	<b>9b</b>	
<b>10</b>	Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b>	Alimony received	<b>11</b>	n/a
<b>12</b>	Business income or (loss). Attach Schedule C or C-EZ	<b>12</b>	
<b>13</b>	Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>13</b>	0
<b>14</b>	Other gains or (losses). Attach Form 4797	<b>14</b>	
<b>15a</b>	IRA distributions	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Taxable amount	<b>15b</b>	
<b>16a</b>	Pensions and annuities	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Taxable amount	<b>16b</b>	
<b>17</b>	Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedule E	<b>17</b>	

**Refund**

**73** If line 72 is more than line 61, subtract line 61 from line 72. This is the amount you overpaid **73**

**74a** Amount of line 73 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here  **74a**

**b** Routing number \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Type:  Checking  Savings

**d** Account number \_\_\_\_\_

**75** Amount of line 73 you want applied to your 2013 estimated tax **75**

**Amount You Owe**

**76** Amount you owe. Subtract line 72 from line 61. For details on how to pay, see instructions **76**

**77** Estimated tax penalty (see instructions) **77**

**Third Party Designee**

Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return with the IRS (see instructions)?  Yes. Complete below.  No

Designee's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Personal identification number (PIN) \_\_\_\_\_

If we can assist you in any way, please contact the Charleston County Assessor’s office at (843) 958-4100

**LEGAL RESIDENCE (4%) EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

This Application is for the current year only, **REFUNDS REQUIRE A DIFFERENT FORM**

**DO NOT FAX, DO NOT E-MAIL**

**Mail original application to:**

Charleston County Assessor's Office  
 PO Box 427, Charleston, SC 29402-0427  
 Telephone: 843-958-4100 (option #1)



**Located at:**

101 Meeting Street, Ste. 130  
 Charleston, SC 29401

NAME & MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER	PROPERTY TYPE
	MOBILE HOME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If <b>YES</b> : Decal # _____ PARCEL USED AS YARD _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No #ACRES _____ #LOTS _____ Ofc. Use: <b>Assoc. PIN</b> _____

**CALL 843-958-4100 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS - YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING IF YOUR APPLICATION IS DENIED**

**YOU MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS APPLICATION AND PROVIDE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION**

1. ADDRESS of owner-occupant's primary legal residence: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date owner-occupant(s) began to occupy the property: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is the property held in a trust? If **YES**: attach copy of **ENTIRE** trust and any related documents. ....  Yes  No  
 If **YES**: is the property occupied by a current income beneficiary of the trust? (name) \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
4. Is the property owned by a single member Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)?.. ....  Yes  No  
 If **YES**: provide operating agreement or other document(s) such as Form 8832 showing the applicant is the single member
5. Is the property subject to a land/installment contract or bond for title? If **YES**: attach copy of recorded contract .....  Yes  No
6. Is the property rented for any period of time during the year? If **YES**: # of days rented? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
7. Is any part of the property (commercial, apartment, lot, mobile home, etc.) rented OR used/claimed for business purposes? Sqft: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No  
 %: \_\_\_\_\_ Describe use (*attach extra sheet if needed*) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you operate a B&B (such as Airbnb) out of the property? If **YES**: number of days rented \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
9. Please check appropriate box: A) Married  B) Widowed  C) Legally separated  D) Divorced  E) Never Married   
 A) Address of your PREVIOUS residence. (Street, City, County, State, Country) \_\_\_\_\_  
 B) Spouse's previous address (if different from A): Check if **NOT** Different  \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did you own your previous residence? If **YES**: Has it been sold? If **YES**: Date sold: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No  
 If **NOT** sold - is that property qualified for 4% or for any other type of exemption, discount or credit, etc.? .....  Yes  No  
 If **YES**: the previous taxing jurisdiction **MUST** provide a letter stating it was removed and the effective date of the removal.
11. Do you, your spouse, or any member of your household\* own another residence(s) in the United States or in another country?.....  Yes  No  
 If **YES**: List ALL addresses showing City, County, State, Country (*attach extra sheet if necessary*) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you, your spouse or any member of your household\* claim to be a resident of any other jurisdiction for any purpose? .....  Yes  No  
 If **YES**: attach explanation (and include City, County, State or Country) \_\_\_\_\_

**MINIMUM REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO CONSIDER THIS APPLICATION for all owner-occupants AND spouse**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ SC DRIVERS LICENSE/SC ID CARD WITH CURRENT ADDRESS                                       | _____ FEDERAL 1040 TAX RETURN W/ SCHED. A, C, E & FORM 8829 (if applicable)   |
| _____ SC VEHICLE REGISTRATION WITH CURRENT ADDRESS<br>(Company car; provide that registration) | _____ SC INCOME TAX RETURN OR MOST RECENT STATE FILED<br>(Redact State and Federal Income forms per example on back of this form) |
| _____ SC VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS WITH CURRENT ADDRESS   | _____ PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD OR VISA (if applicable)   |
| _____ DIVORCE DECREE OR LEGAL SEPARATION PAPER (if applicable)                                 | _____ OTHER DOCUMENTS AS INDICATED ON APPLICATION OR INSTRUCTIONS   |

**If any required proof or information is missing, the application will not be processed. Other proof or information may be required. If so, you will be contacted.**

**SC Code 12-43-220(c):** "The owner or his agent shall provide all information required in the application, and shall certify to the following statement: 'Under penalty of perjury I certify that: (A) the residence which is the subject of this application is my legal residence and where I am domiciled at the time of this application and that neither I, nor any member of my household\*, claim to be a legal resident of a jurisdiction other than South Carolina for any purpose; and (B) that neither I, nor a member of my household\*, claim the special assessment ratio allowed by this section on another residence.' If a person signs the certification and obtains the four percent assessment ratio, and is thereafter found not eligible, or thereafter loses eligibility and fails to notify the Assessor within six months, a penalty is imposed..."  
 \*member of my household is defined on the back of this application. Penalty section is also on back.

**BY THE SIGNING OF THIS APPLICATION I AGREE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE STATEMENT AND FOLLOWED THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK**

**REQUIRED SIGNATURE – Owner-Occupant's Signature**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name Legibly: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED SIGNATURE:  Spouse (spouse MUST sign if applicant is married and not separated—even if spouse is NOT an owner)**

**OR  Co-Owner IF occupant of property**  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name Legibly: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only: Approved:  Yes  No By: \_\_\_\_\_

PIN# \_\_\_\_\_

**FILING THIS APPLICATION DOES NOT ALLOW YOU TO DELAY PAYING TAXES THAT HAVE BEEN BILLED**

Taxes are DUE BY THE DATE ON THE BILL (Usually January 15<sup>TH</sup>) **PENALTIES AND INTEREST CANNOT BE WAIVED IF THE PAYMENT IS LATE.**

LR APP. Revised May 15, 2017

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, REQUIRED DOCUMENTS OR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LEGAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION:  
CALL THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AT 843-958-4100  
OTHER COUNTY OFFICES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ACCURATE ANSWERS**

If approved the 4% ratio will be computed into your tax bill and will reflect QR4 as the assessment ratio on your bill. If your application is not approved by the time the bill is due, pay the bill and a refund will be issued if the application is approved and the special assessment ratio granted after the due date.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- All questions *must* be answered completely and all required documents/proof *must* be supplied.
- Provide a written explanation if information/documents are not available
- If married, your spouse must sign and provide all required documentation even if he or she has no ownership of the property and/or does not occupy the property
- Do not email or fax the completed application, original signatures are required. Mail or hand deliver the application to the address on the application form.

**MINIMUM REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

Send legible copies of required documents and proof – do not send us YOUR original documents

**\*\*\*IF QUESTIONS ARISE AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM, YOU MAY BE CONTACTED FOR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OR CLARIFICATION\*\*\***

- SC Driver's License/Identification card for all owner occupants AND spouse
- SC motor vehicle registration showing current address for all owner occupants AND spouse (*For company cars – provide registration showing business address*)
- Copy of SC Voter Registration card for all owner occupants AND spouse
- Federal Tax returns: Redacted copy of first two pages of most recently filed (1040) and  Schedule A  Schedule C  Schedule E  Form 8829 (if applicable)  
Returns for both owner-occupant AND spouse must be supplied  
If you have filed an extension, provide most recently filed complete federal/state return AND a copy of your filed extension.  
If you have any questions about how we protect your information **call** the Charleston County Assessor's office at (843) 958-4100.
- SC income tax return** or **other state income tax return** (if not yet filing in SC). For SC income tax returns supply first 3 pages only and  Schedule NR (if applicable)
- Court ordered separate support & maintenance agreement or divorce decree, if separated or divorced
- For active duty MILITARY ONLY- provide the following:  Military ID  current orders  current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) - redact income information.  
Military members AND their spouses must provide driver's license(s), vehicle registration(s) and voter registration(s) regardless of where licensed or registered.
- Provide copy of permanent residence card or Visa if Owner or Spouse is a citizen of another country.
- Additional documentation if applicable.  trusts  bond for title/land contract ;  operating agreement or  Form 8832 for single member LLC's

**If you do not have the required documentation or proof but still feel you qualify, call the Assessor's office and we will discuss your situation with you.**

**HOW TO REDACT YOUR TAX RETURNS**

Redact the return as shown (SC and other state returns have similar information to the 1040) using a heavy marker or pen to cover up:

- Social Security Numbers
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If you have any questions about redacting or about what parts of the returns are needed or why they are needed, **call** the Assessor's Office at 843-958-4100.

Form <b>1040</b>	Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99)	<b>2016</b>	OMB No. 1545-0074	IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.
For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2016, or other tax year beginning		.2016, and ending	.20	See separate instructions.
Your first name and initial	Last name	Taxpayer		Your social security number
John Doe				[REDACTED]
If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial	Last name	Taxpayer		Spouse's social security number
Jane Doe				[REDACTED]
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.			Apt. no.	▲ Make sure the SSN(s) above and on line 6c are correct.
123 Any Street				
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions)				
Presidential Election Campaign				

Following are important **EXCERPTS** from the legal residence exemption statute SECTION 12-43-220. (c)

A full copy of the statute is attached to this form, available online at: [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) or available by calling the Assessor's Office at 843-958-4100

"a member of my household" means:

- the owner-occupant's spouse, except when that spouse is legally separated from the owner-occupant; and
- any child under the age of eighteen years of the owner-occupant claimed or eligible to be claimed as a dependent on the owner-occupant's federal income tax return.

If the assessor determines the owner-occupant ineligible, the six percent property tax assessment ratio applies and the owner-occupant may appeal the classification as provided in Chapter 60 of this title.

- **If a change in ownership or use occurs**, the owner who had qualified for the special assessment ratio allowed by this section **shall notify the assessor** of the change in classification **within six months of the change**
- Another application is required by the new owner to qualify the residence for the four percent assessment ratio allowed by this section.
- If a person signs the certification, obtains the four percent assessment ratio, and is thereafter found not eligible, or thereafter loses eligibility and fails to notify the assessor within six months, **a penalty is imposed equal to one hundred percent of the tax paid, plus interest on that amount at the rate of one-half of one percent a month...**

If we can assist you in any way, contact the Assessor's office at (843) 958-4100

OR

Visit [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org)



As of end of 2016 Legislative Session

SECTION 12-43-220 (c)

- (1) The legal residence and not more than five acres contiguous thereto, when owned totally or in part in fee or by life estate and occupied by the owner of the interest, and additional dwellings located on the same property and occupied by immediate family members of the owner of the interest, are taxed on an assessment equal to four percent of the fair market value of the property.

If residential real property is held in trust and the income beneficiary of the trust occupies the property as a residence, then the assessment ratio allowed by this item applies if the trustee certifies to the assessor that the property is occupied as a residence by the income beneficiary of the trust.

When the legal residence is located on leased or rented property and the residence is owned and occupied by the owner of a residence on leased property, even though at the end of the lease period the lessor becomes the owner of the residence, the assessment for the residence is at the same ratio as provided in this item. If the lessee of property upon which he has located his legal residence is liable for taxes on the leased property, then the property upon which he is liable for taxes, not to exceed five acres contiguous to his legal residence, must be assessed at the same ratio provided in this item.

If this property has located on it any rented mobile homes or residences which are rented or any business for profit, this four percent value does not apply to those businesses or rental properties. However, if the person claiming the four percent assessment ratio resides in the mobile home or single family residence and only rents a portion of the mobile home or single family residence to another individual as a residence, the foregoing provision does not apply and the four percent assessment ratio must be applied to the entire mobile home or single family residence.

For purposes of the assessment ratio allowed pursuant to this item, a residence does not qualify as a legal residence unless the residence is determined to be the domicile of the owner-applicant.

- (2) (i) To qualify for the special property tax assessment ratio allowed by this item, the owner-occupant must have actually owned and occupied the residence as his legal residence and been domiciled at that address for some period during the applicable tax year. A residence which has been qualified as a legal residence for any part of the year is entitled to the four percent assessment ratio provided in this item for the entire year, for the exemption from property taxes levied for school operations pursuant to Section 12-37-251 for the entire year, and for the homestead exemption under Section 12-37-250, if otherwise eligible, for the entire year.
- (ii) This item does not apply unless the owner of the property or the owner's agent applies for the four percent assessment ratio before the first penalty date for the payment of taxes for the tax year for which the owner first claims eligibility for this assessment ratio. In the application the owner or his agent shall provide all information required in the application, and shall certify to the following statement:

"Under penalty of perjury I certify that:

- (A) the residence which is the subject of this application is my legal residence and where I am domiciled at the time of this application and that neither I, nor any member of my household, claim to be a legal resident of a jurisdiction other than South Carolina for any purpose; and
- (B) that neither I, nor a member of my household, claim the special assessment ratio allowed by this section on another residence."

- (iii) For purposes of subitem (ii)(B) of this item, "a member of my household" means:

- (A) the owner-occupant's spouse, except when that spouse is legally separated from the owner-occupant; and
- (B) any child under the age of eighteen years of the owner-occupant claimed or eligible to be claimed as a dependent on the owner-occupant's federal income tax return.

- (iv) In addition to the certification, the burden of proof for eligibility for the four percent assessment ratio is on the owner-occupant and the applicant must provide proof the assessor requires including, but not limited to:

- (A) a copy of the owner-occupant's most recently filed South Carolina individual income tax return;
- (B) copies of South Carolina motor vehicle registrations for all motor vehicles registered in the name of the owner-occupant and registered at the same address of the four percent domicile;
- (C) other proof required by the assessor necessary to determine eligibility for the assessment ratio allowed by this item.

If the owner or the owner's agent has made a proper certificate as required pursuant to this subitem and the owner is otherwise eligible, the owner is deemed to have met the burden of proof and is allowed the four percent assessment ratio allowed by this item, if the residence that is the subject of the application is not rented for more than seventy-two days in a calendar year. For purposes of determining eligibility, rental income, and residency, the assessor annually may require a copy of applicable portions of the owner's federal and state tax returns, as well as the Schedule E from the applicant's federal return for the applicable tax year.

If the assessor determines the owner-occupant ineligible, the six percent property tax assessment ratio applies and the owner-occupant may appeal the classification as provided in Chapter 60 of this title.

- (v) (A) A member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty who is a legal resident of and domiciled in another state is nevertheless deemed a legal resident and domiciled in this State for purposes of this item if the member's permanent duty station is in this State. A copy of the member's orders filed with the assessor is considered proof sufficient of the member's permanent duty station.
- (B) An active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States eligible for and receiving the special assessment ratio for owner-occupied residential property allowed pursuant to this subsection (c), who receives orders for a permanent change of station or a temporary duty assignment for at least one year, retains that four percent assessment ratio and applicable exemptions for so long as the owner remains on active duty, regardless of the owner's subsequent relocation and regardless of any rental income attributable to the property. Subject to subsubitem (C), the provisions of this subsubitem (B) do not apply if the owner or a member of the owner's household, as defined in item (2)(iii) of this subsection (c), claims the special four percent assessment ratio allowed pursuant to this subsection for any other residential property located in this State.
- (C) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States meeting all the other requirements of this subsection who receives orders for a permanent change of station or a temporary duty assignment for at least one year, may claim the four percent assessment ratio and applicable exemptions for two residential properties located in the State so long as the owner attempts to sell the first acquired residence within thirty days of acquiring the second residence. The taxpayer must continue to attempt to sell the first acquired residence in any year in which the four percent assessment ratio is claimed.
- (2) The four percent assessment ratio may not be claimed on both residences for more than two property tax years.
- (3) This subsubitem does not apply unless the owner of the properties or the owner's agent applies for the four percent assessment ratio on both residences before the first penalty date for the payment of taxes for the tax year for which the owner first claims eligibility for this assessment ratio. The burden of proof for eligibility for the four percent assessment ratio on both residences is on the taxpayer. The taxpayer must provide the proof the assessor requires, including, but not limited to, a copy of the owner's most recently filed South Carolina individual income tax return and copies of South Carolina motor vehicle registrations for all motor vehicles registered in the name of the owner. The taxpayer must apply to the county assessor by the first penalty date for the payment of taxes for the tax year in which the taxes are due to utilize the provisions of subsubitems (B) and (C). Along with the application, the

applicant must submit a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) from the current calendar year. Any information contained in the LES that is not related to the active duty status of the member may be redacted."

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a taxpayer qualified for the special assessment ratio for tax year 2014 or 2015 pursuant to Section 12-43-220(c)(2)(v)(B) or (C), except that the taxpayer applied after the May fifteenth deadline, then the taxpayer must be refunded the appropriate amount so long as the taxpayer makes application for either or both years by January 15, 2017.

(D) For purposes of subsubitems (B) and (C), owner includes the spouse of the service member who jointly owns the qualifying property.

(E) The special four percent assessment ratio allowed by this subitem (v) must be construed as a property tax exemption for an amount of the fair market value of the residence sufficient to equal a four percent assessment ratio and other exemptions allowed applicable to property qualifying for the special assessment ratio."

(vi) No further applications are necessary from the current owner while the property for which the initial application was made continues to meet the eligibility requirements. If a change in ownership or use occurs, the owner who had qualified for the special assessment ratio allowed by this section shall notify the assessor of the change in classification within six months of the change. Another application is required by the new owner to qualify the residence for future years for the four percent assessment ratio allowed by this section.

(vii) (A) If a person signs the certification, obtains the four percent assessment ratio, and is thereafter found not eligible, or thereafter loses eligibility and fails to notify the assessor within six months, a penalty is imposed equal to one hundred percent of the tax paid, plus interest on that amount at the rate of one-half of one percent a month, but in no case less than thirty dollars nor more than the current year's taxes. This penalty and any interest are considered ad valorem taxes due on the property for purposes of collection and enforcement.

(B) If property has undergone an assessable transfer of interest as provided pursuant to Section 12-37-3150 and the transferee is a bona fide purchaser for value without notice, penalties assessed pursuant to subsubitem (A) and the additional property taxes and late payment penalties are solely the personal liability of the transferor and do not constitute a lien on and are not enforceable against the property in the hands of the transferee. The provisions of this subitem making the additional taxes and penalties assessed pursuant to subitem (A) the sole personal liability of the transferor also apply to transfers required as a result of a property settlement pursuant to a divorce or other disputed marital matters where required by written agreement of the parties or a court order unless the agreement or court order requires otherwise, and additionally apply to trust distributions unless the trust instrument requires otherwise.

(viii) Failure to file within the prescribed time constitutes abandonment of the owner's right for this classification for the current tax year, but the local taxing authority may extend the time for filing upon a showing satisfactory to it that the person had reasonable cause for not filing before the first penalty date.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a taxpayer may apply for a refund of property taxes overpaid because the property was eligible for the legal residence assessment ratio. The application must be made in accordance with Section 12-60-2560. The taxpayer must establish that the property in question was in fact his legal residence and where he was domiciled. A county council, by ordinance, may allow refunds for the county government portion of property taxes for such additional past years as it determines advisable.

(4) A legal residence qualifying for the four percent assessment ratio provided by this item must have an assessed value of not less than one hundred dollars.

(5) To qualify for the four percent assessment ratio, the owner-occupant of a legal residence that is being purchased under a contract for sale or a bond for title must record the contract for sale or the bond for title in the office of the register of mesne conveyances or the clerk of court in those counties where the office of the register of mesne conveyances has been abolished.

For purposes of this subsection, a contract for sale or a bond for title is the sale of real property by a seller, who finances the sale and retains title to the property solely as security for the debt.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a purchaser who purchases a residential property intending that the property shall become the purchaser's primary residence, but subject to vacation rentals as provided for in Article 2, Chapter 50, Title 27 for no longer than ninety days, may apply for the four percent assessment ratio when the purchaser actually occupies the property. If the owner actually occupies the residence within ninety days of acquiring ownership, the four percent assessment ratio, if the owner is otherwise qualified, applies retroactively to the date ownership was acquired.

(7) [DELETED]

(8) (i) For ownership interests in residential property created by deed if the interest in the property has not already transferred by operation of law, when the individual claiming the special four percent assessment ratio allowed by this item has an ownership interest in the residence that is less than fifty percent ownership in fee simple, then the value of the residence allowed the special four percent assessment ratio is a percentage of that value equal to the individual's ownership interest in the residence, but not less than the amount provided pursuant to subitem (4) of this item. This subitem (8) does not apply in the case of a residence otherwise eligible for the special four percent assessment ratio when occupied jointly by a married couple or which remains occupied by a spouse legally separated from a spouse who has abandoned the residence. If the special four percent assessment ratio allowed by this item applies to only a fraction of the value of residence, then the exemption allowed pursuant to Section 12-37-220(B)(47) applies only to value attributable to the taxpayer's ownership interest.

(ii) Notwithstanding sub-subitem (i), for ownership interests in residential property created by deed if the interest in the property has not already transferred by operation of law, an applicant may qualify for the four percent assessment ratio on the entire value of the property if the applicant:

- (A) owns at least a twenty-five percent interest in the subject property with immediate family members;
- (B) is not a member of a household currently receiving the four percent assessment ratio on another property; and
- (C) otherwise qualifies for the four percent assessment ratio.

(iii) This subitem (8) does not apply to property held exclusively by:

- (A) an applicant, or the applicant and the applicant's spouse;
- (B) a trust if the person claiming the special four percent assessment ratio is the grantor or settlor of the trust, and the only beneficiaries of the trust are the grantor or settlor and any parent, spouse, child, grandchild, or sibling of the grantor or settlor;
- (C) a family limited partnership if the person claiming the special four percent assessment ratio transferred the subject property to the partnership, and the only members of the partnership are the person and the person's parents, spouse, children, grandchildren, or siblings;
- (D) a limited liability company if the person claiming the special four percent assessment ratio transferred the subject property to the limited liability company, and the only members of the limited liability company are the person and the person's parents, spouse, children, grandchildren, or siblings;
- or
- (E) any combination thereof.

For purposes of this subitem, "immediate family member" means a parent, child, or sibling.