

**Garfield Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income
Guidelines and Asset Test
2026-02**

WHEREAS, the principal residence of a person who, in the judgment of the Assessor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Garfield Township, Mackinac County, adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all 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) File a claim with the Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by 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 or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts and checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification, if requested.
- 5) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- 8) Meet additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board, including: **A MAXIMUM ASSET VALUE OF \$30,000.00, to be eligible for the exemption.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 253 of 2020, if a person claiming an exemption qualified under the eligibility requirements, the Board of Review shall grant the exemption in whole or in part, as follows:

- a) A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.
- b) A partial exemption equal to 1 of the following:
 - (i) A 75% or 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.
 - (ii) As approved by the State Tax Commission, any other percentage reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted, applied in a form and manner prescribed by the State Tax Commission.

WHEREAS, the commission resolves to permit a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both, to remain exempt under this section in tax years 2021, 2022 and 2023 without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a

change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption and to permit a principal residence exempt for the first time from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2021, 2022, or 2023 to remain exempt under this section for up to 3 additional years after its initial year of exempt status without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption and if the person who establishes initial eligibility receives 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;

WHEREAS, the commission resolves to permit any new exemptions in 2021, 2022 or 2023 to remain exempt for up to 3 years for persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases;

WHEREAS, both of the following apply to a person who obtains an extended exemption:

- (a) The person shall file with the local assessing unit, in a form and manner prescribed by the State Tax Commission, an affidavit rescinding the exemption as extended under this subsection within 45 days after either of the following, if applicable:
 - (i) The person ceases to own or occupy the principal residence for which the exemption was extended.
 - (ii) The person experiences a change in household assets or income that defeats eligibility for the exemption.
- (b) If the person fails to file a rescission as required and the property is later determined to be ineligible for the exemption, the person is subject to repayment of any additional taxes with interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting, extending, or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Fillman and supported by Board Member D. Butkovich.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye:" Fillman, D. Butkovich, Albright and M. Butkovich. "Nay:" None. "Absent:" S. Butkovich.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.



Clerk

I, PAULA M. FILLMAN, the duly elected and acting Clerk of GARFIELD Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the regular meeting of said Board held on February 16, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk