

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN**

PO Box 436 50 Bay Point Road

Georgetown, Maine 04548-0436

Phone (207) 371-2820 Fax (207) 371-2331

 March 6, 2017

Dear Resident:

 The proposed state budget for the next two years was released on Friday, January 6th. We are writing to you today about one of the specific parts of the proposed budget, the homestead exemption. You are currently receiving this benefit, which reduces your tax bill by $114.75 per year because of a $15,000 exemption on your property. For your upcoming tax bill, current state law will increase the exemption by another $5,000 saving you another $38.25 for a total of $153.00 off your property tax bill. Unfortunately, included in the budget is a proposal to immediately eliminate the homestead property exemption for homeowners under the age of 65. If adopted, the homestead exemption change would take effect immediately for the 2017 tax year.

 In anticipation that the state budget will be adopted long past the required date of

April 1, 2017 and, in order for citizens to have timely paperwork in for homestead exemptions, we are requesting that if you are age 65 or older as of April 1, 2017, to please provide proof of your age (in the form of a driver’s license, birth certificate or other legal document indicating age) to the Town Office in order to continue receiving your homestead exemption on your next tax bill.

 If this is adopted and you are under the age of 65, you will lose your $153.00 homestead benefit. If you are unhappy with this change, we strongly encourage you to contact your local representatives to share your concern about this proposed change, as the legislature will be debating the merits of this proposed change in the upcoming weeks.

**Georgetown Representatives:**

Senator Eloise Vitelli Representative Jeffrey Pierce

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 Finally, this is just one of many complex changes to tax policy recommended in the proposed budget. We encourage you to be informed about all the changes so that you might judge the merits of each one of them.

 As always, Town Office staff is available to assist you with any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 371-2820, Monday through Friday, 9am to 12pm & 1pm to 5pm.

Sincerely,

 Town of Georgetown Select Board

 Geoffrey Birdsall, Katherine MacKay and Dolores Pinette