

Ordinance No. 2025-554

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE SENIOR CITIZENS REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Castle (“City Council”) possesses the authority to adopt, amend, modify, or repeal the City of New Castle Municipal Code (“City Code”); and

WHEREAS, the City of New Castle recognizes the burden real property taxes may have on senior citizens who are often on a fixed income; and

WHEREAS, the existing property tax exemption for senior citizens has not been adjusted since 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a moderate adjustment to the real property tax exemption for senior citizens in the City of New Castle is prudent and appropriate and in the best interest of the City and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, making the express finding that the provisions of this Ordinance enhance and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the City of New Castle, be it ordained by the Council of the City of New Castle Council as follows:

SECTION 1: City Code Chapter 221, Taxation, Article I, Senior Citizens Exemption, Section 221-1, Conditions for exemption on real property tax, is hereby amended as follows (with new language identified in bold, underlined and deleted text shown by bold, strikethrough text):

§ 221-1 Conditions for exemption on real property tax.

- A. Every resident of the City of New Castle, being the owner of real property located therein, who is 65 years of age or older shall be entitled to an exemption from municipal taxation on such real property to the extent of the first ~~\$32,000~~ **\$173,000** of assessed valuation thereof,

provided that the income of a property owner shall not exceed ~~\$25,000~~ ~~\$15,000~~ for an individual or ~~\$50,000~~ ~~\$30,000~~ for a couple. These income limits will be increased each year based on the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) provided by the Social Security Administration.

- B. No person shall be entitled to exemption from taxation unless he/she shall have made written application therefor prior to September 1, 1970 for the fiscal year July 1, 1970, to June 30, 1971, and prior to May 1 of each subsequent year for the fiscal year beginning on the following July 1.
- C. The Mayor and Council of New Castle may by resolution prescribe forms upon which application for exemption from taxation under this article shall be made.

SECTION 2: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: In the event any existing Ordinances or parts of Ordinances are in conflict herewith, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and approval and the deadline for application for this senior citizen tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2026 is extended to September 1, 2025.

First Reading

Second Reading

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2025

_____, President of City Council

Attest: _____
_____, City Clerk

Approved: _____
_____, Mayor

DRAFT