



# Department of Assessment

128 East Buffalo Street

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Preliminary Assessment Change Notices to be mailed January 31, 2003

The Tompkins County Department of Assessment is in year 5 of the 6 year Annual Reassessment Agreement that was signed with the New York State Office of Real Property Services (NYSORPS) in 1999 to provide for a fair and equitable way to assure that all property owners within Tompkins County are paying their fair share of property taxes.

Due to the rapidly increasing real estate market values in Tompkins County, all parcels were reviewed for the 2003 roll year. In order to provide adequate time to review the 2003 Preliminary Assessments, the Department of Assessment is mailing Preliminary Change of Assessment Notices to all property owners whose assessment has changed since the 2002 Final Assessment Roll. The timing of this mailing will allow the property owners of Tompkins County to schedule Preliminary Assessment Review Hearings with the Department of Assessment Feb 6, 2003 – March 28, 2003. At these hearings, it is the property owners' responsibility to present any new information (such as changes in inventory and/or any recent fee appraisals) regarding their parcel that the Department of Assessment has not already taken into account while valuing their property at 100% fair market value. All real property information (including sales) is available for review on the 6 public computers in the Assessment Office, this information is also available at the Tompkins County Clerk Office.

If a property owner does not receive a notice of change at this time, it may be assumed that the assessment has not changed since the 2002 Final Assessment Roll. If a property currently has new construction, remodeling, demolition or any other physical change in progress, an additional Notice of Assessment Change will be mailed on May 1, upon filing the Tentative Assessment Roll. Also, all changes from the 2002 Final Assessment Roll will receive an official Change of Assessment Notice pursuant to RPTL 510 on or around May 1, 2003.

An increase or decrease in an individual assessment will not equate to an increase/decrease in taxes paid. Taxes are dependent on the tax levy changes adopted by each taxing jurisdiction, other property assessment changes, exemptions, state aid changes and re-apportionments of county and school tax levies.

More information on annual reassessment and other topics regarding assessment is available on the web at [www.tompkins-co.org/assessment](http://www.tompkins-co.org/assessment) or the NY State Office of Real Property Services web site at <http://www.orps.state.ny.us>

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