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# Deadline to contest property tax bills is Feb. 1 in most Mass. towns and cities

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

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Massachusetts officials issued a reminder on Tuesday that the deadline to contest property tax bills in most cities and towns is Feb. 1.

Property owners can file for a reduction in their bills, or an abatement, for one of several reasons, including because they believe their property was overvalued when it was assessed, or because they believe their property was incorrectly classified as residential, commercial, open space, or industrial property.

“Assessments have risen in most communities, resulting in higher tax bills,” Secretary of State William F. Galvin said Tuesday in a statement. “But if you believe your assessment is too high, you might want to explore the abatement process. You can challenge a tax bill if you believe that the assessed value is too high in relation to similar properties in the neighborhood, or that the classification is improper.”

His office said that Feb. 1 is the deadline for property tax payments, and the deadline to file for an abatement, in about two-thirds of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts.



For more information, the office said to visit [www.sec.state.ma.us/cis](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis) or make a toll-free call to 1-800-392-6090.

The Globe reported Tuesday that property taxes are continuing their inexorable rise around the state.

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