2020 Property Tax Guide for Manufactured and Mobile Home Owners

(R. 1-20)
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### I. Overview

This booklet provides general information about manufactured and mobile home property assessment and taxation in Wisconsin. Please contact your local assessor for additional information about your assessment.

#### A. General property

Defined by state law, general property includes all taxable real and personal property, except property taxed under special provisions (ex: utility, forest crop, woodland tax, and managed forest property).

#### B. Real property, real estate and land

The terms real property, real estate and land include: the land and all buildings, improvements, fixtures, and rights and privileges connected with the land.

#### C. Personal property

The term personal property includes: all goods, wares, merchandise, chattels and effects of any nature or description having any marketable value and not included in the term "real property."

#### D. Taxable/nontaxable property

Under general property tax law all property is taxable unless expressly exempted by the legislature.

#### E. Examples of exempt property

**Common property types that are exempt by law:**

1. State and municipal property
2. Public and private school property
3. Cemeteries
4. Property used for abatement of air and water pollution
5. Household furniture and furnishings
6. Manufacturing machinery specific processing equipment
7. Apparel and musical instruments for personal use
8. Money, bonds and stocks
9. Motor vehicles and aircraft
10. Livestock, inventories and merchant’s stocks
11. Computers and electronic peripheral equipment

#### F. Assessment and its purpose

An assessment is the value an assessor places on your property. This value determines what portion of the local property tax levy is covered by your property.

#### G. General property tax components

There are two basic components in any tax: the base and the rate. Multiplying the base times the rate, determines the tax amount.
H. Property tax base

The base is the value of all taxable property in the district. The clerk calculates the rate after the governing body of the town, village or city determines how much money must be raised from the property tax. In Wisconsin, the town, village, or city treasurer collects property taxes not only for its own purposes, but also for the school, the county and the state.

The assessor of each taxation district determines the assessed value of all taxable property, with the exception of manufacturing property. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) annually assesses all manufacturing property in the state. The assessor is appointed or elected at the local level. Wisconsin law also provides for establishing county assessors. Currently, there is no county with a county assessor system.

When the assessor completes the assessments, the assessor’s affidavit is signed and attached to the assessment roll as required by law. Both are then turned over to the Board of Review (BOR).

II. Assessment Process

A. Assessment classification

State law requires an assessor to classify land on the basis of use. This may involve a judgment of the predominant use.

There are eight statutory classifications for real property:
(1) residential, (2) commercial, (3) manufacturing, (4) agricultural, (5) undeveloped, (5m) agricultural forest, (6) productive forest land, and (7) other.

Classification is important since it affects the assessed value of land classified as agricultural, undeveloped and agricultural forest.

Residential, commercial, manufacturing, productive forest land and other:
• Should be assessed based on the amount a typical purchaser would pay for the property under ordinary circumstances
• Assessments should be uniform "at the full value which could ordinarily be obtained therefor at private sale" (sec. 70.32 Wis. Stats.)

Undeveloped land and agricultural forest land:
• Assessed at 50 percent of full value
• After determining the full value of qualifying undeveloped land and agricultural forest land under state law (sec. 70.32(1), Wis. Stats.), state case law, and professionally accepted appraisal practices, the value is reduced by 50 percent under sec. 70.32(4), Wis. Stats.

B. Personal property

• Sec. 70.34, Wis. Stats., requires that "All articles of personal property shall, as far as practicable, be valued by the assessor upon actual view at their true cash value"
• "True cash value" has the same meaning as "market value"
C. Assessments can change
An interior inspection will result in a better quality assessment and is the recommended practice. However, it is not always possible to do this. The law requires that property be valued from actual view or from the best information that can be practicably obtained.

It is also important to remember that Wisconsin has an annual assessment. This means that each year’s assessment is a “new” assessment. The assessor is not obligated to keep the same assessment year after year but rather has a duty to keep all property at market value. Therefore, the assessor may increase your assessment because of building permits or sales activity even though an actual inspection of the property has not been made.

D. Notification requirements for changed assessment
According to state law (sec. 70.365, Wis. Stats.), whenever an assessor changes the total assessment of any real property or any improvements taxed as personal property under sec. 77.84(1), Wis. Stats., by any amount, the owner must be notified. The assessor is not required to provide notice if land is classified as agricultural land, as defined in sec. 70.32(2)(c)1g, Wis. Stats., for the current year and previous year and the difference between the assessments is $500 or less. However, failure to receive a notice does not affect the validity of the changed assessment. The notice must be in writing and mailed at least 15 days, 30 days in revaluation years, prior to the BOR (or meeting of the Board of Assessors if one exists). The notice contains the amount of the changed assessment and the time, date, and place of the BOR (or Board of Assessors) meeting. The notice must include information notifying the owner of the procedures to be used to object to the assessment. The notice requirement does not apply to personal property assessed under Chapter 70.

E. Assessment rolls
Property is described in assessment rolls that are open for review at the office of the clerk or the assessor during regular office hours. Personal Property rolls generally list property owners in alphabetical order by name. For more information, contact your local assessor.

F. Assessed value standard
Assessment compliance
Under state law (sec 70.05(5)(b), Wis. Stats.), each municipality must assess all major classes of property within 10 percent of full value in the same year, at least once within a five-year period. A ‘major class’ of property is defined as a property class that includes more than 10% of the full value of the taxation district. If a municipality is non-compliant after four consecutive years, the Department of Revenue (DOR) must notify the municipality of its non-compliance status. DOR issues the municipality a second non-compliance notice after five consecutive years of non-compliance, and issues an order for supervised assessment after six consecutive years of non-compliance.

Full value law (sec. 70.05(5), Wis. Stats.)
Example of how DOR monitors compliance under the six-year cycle.

• **2014, 2015, 2016, 2017:** First Notice of Non-Compliance – municipality has been non-compliant for four consecutive years, DOR issues the first notice of non-compliance by November 1, 2017

• **2018:** Second Notice of Non-Compliance – municipality has been non-compliant for five consecutive years, DOR issues the second notice of non-compliance by November 1, 2018

• **2019:** Order for Supervised Assessment – municipality has been non-compliant for six consecutive years, DOR issues an order for a state supervised assessment by November 1, 2019

• **2020:** DOR Supervises a Revaluation – state supervised assessment completed
III. Manufactured and Mobile Home Assessment

State law provides manufactured and mobile homes may be classified for assessment and taxation purposes as real or personal property, may be subject to a monthly municipal permit fee or may be exempt from monthly municipal permit fees and property tax.

A. Mobile home definition

"That which is, or was as originally constructed, designed to be transported by any motor vehicle upon a public highway and designed, equipped and used primarily for sleeping, eating and living quarters, or is intended to be so used; and has the meaning given in sec. 101.91(10), Wis. Stats., and includes any additions, attachments, annexes, foundations and appurtenances."

B. Manufactured home definition

A "manufactured home" is defined by state law (sec. 101.91(2), Wis. Stats.), for property taxation as: a structure that is designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation and that is certified by the federal department of housing and urban development as complying with the standards established under 42 USC 5401 to 5425 and includes any additions, annexes, foundations and appurtenances.

C. Camping trailers and recreational mobile homes definition

State law (sec. 70.111(19)(a), Wis. Stats.), defines camping trailers by reference to statutory vehicles sec. 340.01(6m), Wis. Stats., as "a vehicle with a collapsible or folding structure designed for human habitation and towed upon a highway by a motor vehicle."

Under state law, the definition of a recreational mobile home includes:

• Prefabricated structure that is no larger than 400 square feet
• Certified by the manufacturer as complying with the code promulgated by the American National Standards Institute as ANSI A119.5
• Designed to be towed and used primarily as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal purposes

Recreational mobile homes certified as complying with ANSI A 119.5 are identified with a metal plate as shown on Exhibit M-1. See examples RMH-1 and RMH-2 for more information.

State law further states the exemption under this paragraph also applies to "steps and a platform, not exceeding 50 square feet, that lead to a doorway of a recreational mobile home or a recreational vehicle, but does not apply to any other addition, attachment, deck, or patio."

D. Classification of mobile and manufactured homes

A mobile and manufactured home can be classified as real or personal property. A mobile or manufactured home must be:

• Connected to utilities
• On a foundation upon land owned by the mobile and manufactured home owner

To be considered personal property, a mobile or manufactured home:

• Must be on land owned by someone other than who owns the home
• Cannot be set upon a foundation or connected to utilities

A mobile home or manufactured home needs to be "set upon a foundation" before it can be assessed as an improvement to real property. According to state law, a mobile home or manufactured home is defined as "set upon
a foundation" if it is off its wheels and is set upon some other support. The assessor has the authority to determine if the cement blocks supporting the trailer meet this definition of "foundation."

In *Ahrens v. Town of Fulton*, 2002 WI 29, 251 Wis.2d 135, 641 N.W.2d 423, the Supreme Court held "… a mobile home is 'set upon a foundation' when the home is resting for more than a temporary time, in whole or in part, on some other means of support than its wheels."

**In this case:**
- Homes must have some form of stabilizer under the unit, including concrete blocks, cinder blocks or screw jacks
- Use of these support mechanisms effectively took some of the weight of the home off its wheels
- Remaining mobile home did not have any stabilizers under it. This mobile home did, however, have additional structures that were caulked to the unit.
- Additional structures included a 385 square foot screened-in room and a 104 square foot porch. Both structures rest on footings.

The town argued that, when this addition is considered, the mobile home would not be completely supported by its wheels. The Supreme Court agreed with this interpretation.

**E. Exempt mobile and manufactured homes**

Some mobile and manufactured homes are exempt from property tax. State law ([sec. 70.111(19), Wis. Stats.](https://law.wisconsin.gov/statutes/text/70/ch70s01011s01111.htm)), exempts camping trailers and certain recreational mobile homes from personal property taxation. Attached wheels are not the sole criterion for exemption.

**To be considered exempt, the mobile or manufactured home must:**
- Be classified as personal property under [sec. 70.043(2), Wis. Stats.](https://law.wisconsin.gov/statutes/text/70/ch70s00043s00043.htm)
- Meet the definition of a recreational mobile home in [sec. 66.0435(1)(hm), Wis. Stats.](https://law.wisconsin.gov/statutes/text/66/ch66s0435s000.htm)

Vacant mobile or manufactured homes held for sale and owned by a licensed dealer, no matter its location, are considered merchant’s stock-in-trade and are exempt under state law ([sec. 70.111(17), Wis. Stats.](https://law.wisconsin.gov/statutes/text/70/ch70s0111s01111.htm)). Vacant mobile or manufactured homes held by the manufactured or mobile home community operator, that is not a licensed dealer are taxable or subject to a monthly municipal permit fee.

**F. Recreational motor homes**

State law ([sec. 70.112(5), Wis. Stats.](https://law.wisconsin.gov/statutes/text/70/ch70s0112s000.htm)), exempts motor vehicles from property taxation. This statute exempts items such as Winnebago motor homes, Ford campers, and other motorized vehicles known as RVs. Licensed vehicles and trailers are not considered mobile homes or manufactured homes.

**G. Measuring a mobile home for exemption**

- Total square footage (rounded to the nearest square foot) should be calculated using the outside length and width of the mobile, including the area of any additions and attachments
- Only additions and attachments that are clearly attached to the recreational mobile home are included in the calculation of total square footage
- Length and width of a mobile home or manufactured home should not include the excess measurements caused by the protrusion of corner caps and end caps as this could influence the exemption determination
- Freestanding structures (appurtenances) should not be included in the mobile home or manufactured home area calculation

**Garages, sheds, and other freestanding structures affixed to the land should be assessed as:**
- Real estate if the mobile home owner owns the land
- Personal property if the mobile or manufactured home owner does not own the land
The assessor determines what is an addition and attachment. The court stated, "It seems clear from the foregoing that any rooms, porches, decks and the like, that are attached in any way to the basic unit are included within the definition of a mobile home."

Square footage disagreements should first be discussed with the assessor. If you believe the mobile home or manufactured home is exempt, you may file a claim of unlawful tax with the municipality under state law (sec. 74.35, Wis. Stats.). If the municipality rejects the claim, a direct appeal may be made to the Circuit Court of the county in which the property is located.

### H. Monthly municipal permit fee for a mobile home

State law (sec. 70.112(7), Wis. Stats.), exempts from property taxation "every mobile home unit subject to a monthly parking municipal permit fee." According to state law, a municipality may enact an ordinance to collect a mobile home or manufactured home parking monthly municipal permit fee from all units located within the municipality except for:

- Mobile homes or manufactured homes that are improvements to real property as defined in sec. 70.043(1), Wis. Stats. Recreational mobile homes and camping trailers per sec. 70.111(19), Wis. Stats.
- Recreational mobile homes located in campgrounds licensed under sec. 254.47, Wis. Stats.
- Mobile homes located on land where the principal residence home owner is located per sec. 66.0435(9), Wis. Stats.

Vacant units that have been repossessed by the financial institution are not subject to municipal parking fee under sec. 66.0435(3)(c)9, Wis. Stats. The statute was created to read, "No monthly municipal permit fee may be imposed on a financial institution, as defined in sec. 69.30(1)(b), Wis. Stats., that relates to a vacant unit that has been repossessed by the financial institution."

### I. Property assessment appeals

The mobile home or manufactured home owner may appeal the assessment by appearing at the BOR and presenting sworn testimony as to its true and correct market value. This applies to a mobile home or manufactured home whether it is assessed as real estate, personal property, or subject to the monthly municipal permit fee. For additional information on the appeal process, refer to the Property Assessment Appeal Guide for Wisconsin Real Property Owners on the DOR website.

### J. Board of Review exemptions

Disputes concerning exemption issues are not heard at the BOR. Property owners contesting exemption status may file a claim of unlawful tax with the municipality by January 31 of the year in which the tax is payable, under state law (sec. 74.35, Wis. Stats.). If the municipality rejects the claim, a direct appeal may be made to the Circuit Court of the county in which the property is located.
K. Examples

Example 1 – RMH-1 Recreational mobile home

1) Recreational Mobile Home 400 SQ Ft or less (EXEMPT)

2) Steps and Platform 50 SQ FT or less (EXEMPT)

3) 25 SQ FT of Steps and Platform exceeding 50 SQ Ft is (TAXABLE)

The platform and steps in this recreational mobile home exceed 50 Sq. ft. The Recreational Mobile Home and 50 SQ FT of the platform are exempt. The remaining 25 SQ FT is taxable as personal property or parking fee when a mobile home ordinance is in effect.
Example 2 – RMH-2 Recreational mobile home

8' x 6'.25' Enclosed porch. (50 Square feet)
7' x 6'
ATTACHED platform (42 Square feet)
AND
Steps (8 Square feet) = (50 Square Feet)

1) Recreational Mobile Home Under 400 SQ FT (EXEMPT)

2) Steps and Platform 50 SQ FT or less (EXEMPT)

3) Remaining attachments exceeding 50 SQ FT (TAXABLE)

The Recreational Mobile Home does not become taxable. The steps and platform under 50 SQ FT are exempt. The 50 SQ FT of enclosed porch are taxable as personal property or parking fee when a mobile home ordinance is in effect.
# IV. Overview of Manufactured and Mobile Home (Unit) Property Taxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit per 66.0435</th>
<th>Subject to General Property Tax</th>
<th>Subject to Municipal Permit Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit of any size including additions, on a foundation, connected to utilities, land owned by unit’s owner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, as real property</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Meets definition in 66.0435 and real estate in 70.0431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit of any size including additions either still on wheels, and/or not connected to utilities, and/or on land not owned by unit’s owner</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, as personal property unless subject to permit fee</td>
<td>Yes, if located in municipality with 66.0435 permit fee</td>
<td>Meets definition in 66.0435 and personal property in 70.0432; Subject to permit fee if in 66.0435 community; if subject to fee, exempt from personal property tax 70.112(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational mobile home or vehicle no larger than 400 square feet used as temporary living quarters</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Exempt under 70.111(19)(b) to include steps and a platform, not exceeding 50 square feet leading to a doorway of a recreational mobile home, does not apply to any other addition, attachment, deck, or patio</td>
<td>No, by 66.0435(3)(c)</td>
<td>Meets definition in 66.0435(1)(hm); by size and use exempt from personal property tax under 70.111(19)(b); exempt from permit fee under 66.0435(3)(c).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping trailer designed to expand into a tent with built-in space for mattress and other fixtures</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Exempt under 70.111(19)(b)</td>
<td>No, by 66.0435(3)(c)</td>
<td>“Pop-up” trailer meets definition of camping trailer in 340.01(6m) as trailer with collapsible or folding structure towed on the highway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camper body installed or mounted on pick-up truck</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Exempt under 70.111(19)(b)</td>
<td>No, by 66.0435(3)(c)</td>
<td>Meets definition of mobile home in 66.0435; if under 400 square feet, exempt from personal property tax under 70.111(19)(b).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin-section units transported on wheels or dolly and assembled on site</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not a unit under 66.0435. Realty if located on land owned by unit’s owner; otherwise, treated as personal property as a building on leased land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buses or vans</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Exempt under 70.112(5)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Motor vehicle exempt from property tax under 70.112(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant unit held for sale by a dealer</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Considered merchant’s stock under 70.111(17)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taxable or Exempt?
Mobile Homes (MH), Manufactured Homes (MFH) and Recreational Mobile Homes (RMH)

Real Estate
- MH, MFH, RMH and land owned by same person
- MH, MFH and RMH is on a foundation
- MH, MFH and RMH connected to utilities
  (70.043, Court decisions)

Taxable or exempt?
(Presumption of taxability in sec. 70.109, Wis. Stats.)

Taxable Real Estate unless exemption under state law (sec. 70.11, Wis. Stats.), applies.

Real Property or Personal Property?
(secs. 70.03, 70.04, Wis. Stats.)

Personal Property
- MH, MFH, RMH and land not owned by same person, or
- MH, MFH and RMH not on a foundation, or
- MH, MFH and RMH not connected to utilities
  (70.043, Court decisions)

Taxable or exempt?
(Presumption of taxability in sec. 70.109, Wis. Stats.)

Taxable Personal Property if no exemption applies

Exempt Personal Property if:
- Held for sale by dealer — sec. 70.111(17)
- Bus or van - licensed motor vehicle (ex: Winnebago) — sec. 70.112(5)
- Licensed trailer (ex: popup) — sec. 70.0112(5)
- Recreational mobile home — sec. 70.111(19)
  - Less than 400 sq ft or certified under ANSI 119.5
  - Temporary living
- Pays a qualifying municipal fee — sec. 70.112(7)
A. Property information
Wisconsin has an annual assessment. This means that each year’s assessment is a new assessment. The assessor is not obligated to keep the same assessment each year. The assessor may change your assessment because of building permits or sales activity even if he or she did not view your property.

The law requires that property be valued from actual view or from the best information that can be practicably obtained. An interior inspection results in a better quality assessment; however, it is not always possible to conduct interior inspections. To ensure receiving a complete and accurate valuation, it benefits the property owner to provide interior viewing access of their residence.

Under state law (sec. 70.05(4m) and (4n), Wis. Stats.), assessors must provide written notice to property owners when requesting an interior view of the residence. DOR recommends that a letter be sent allowing fourteen calendar days for a response. If no response is received, in-person contact may be attempted to obtain consent. If that step is unsuccessful, a certified letter including the notice may be sent. If these circumstances make an interior view necessary to complete an accurate valuation, refusal of entry can provide basis for seeking a special inspection warrant.

For the purposes of valuation if access is denied, the assessor will then base the valuation on the next best information available. However, if facts exist making an interior view necessary to complete an accurate valuation, the assessor may seek a special inspection warrant under state law (sec. 66.0119, Wis. Stats.) to view the interior of the home.

B. Trespass and Revaluation Notice
The trespass law entitles the assessor to enter a property once during an assessment cycle unless the property owner authorizes additional visits. If the property owner denies the assessor access to the property, the assessor must maintain a list of denied entries. State law (sec. 943.13 and sec. 943.15, Wis. Stats.), pertains to the entry onto the property. Assessors and their staff should understand the conditions included in these statutes.

Major conditions for entry:
• Reason for the entry must be to make an assessment on behalf of the state or a political subdivision
• Entry must be on a weekday during daylight hours, or at another time as agreed upon with the property owner
• Must not be more than one hour
• Assessor must not open doors, enter through open doors, or look into windows of structures
• If the property owner or occupant is not present, the assessor must leave a notice on the principal building providing the owner information on how to contact them
• May not enter the premises if they have received a notice from the property owner or occupant denying them entry
• Assessor must leave if the property owner or occupant asks them to leave

The law addresses notification which must be published or posted prior to commencement of a revaluation by an assessor. The trespass law states in part, "Before a city, village, or town assessor conducts a revaluation of property under this paragraph (sec. 70.05(5)(b) Wis. Stats.), the city, village or town shall publish a notice on its municipal website that a revaluation will occur and the approximate dates of the property revaluation. The notice shall also describe the authority of an assessor, under state law (sec. 943.13 and sec. 943.15, Wis. Stats.), to enter land. If a municipality does not have a website, it shall post the required information in at least three public places within the city, village or town." It is recommended that you provide a link to the above noted statutory references so that persons visiting your website could click on those links and review the statutes. Sample language regarding this notice is provided below.
C. Sample Revaluation Notice

A revaluation of property assessments in the (municipality) shall occur for the (year) assessment year. The approximate dates of the revaluation notices being sent to property owners is expected to be in (month/year). Please also notice that the Assessor has certain statutory authority to enter land as described in state law (secs. 943.13 and 943.15, Wis. Stats.).

The ability to enter land is subject to several qualifications and limitations, as described within the foregoing statutes. Copies of the applicable statutes can be obtained at public depositories throughout the State of Wisconsin, and from the Wisconsin State Legislature website or a copy may be obtained from the municipal clerk upon payment of applicable copying charges.

V. Glossary

Arm’s length sale – sale between two parties, neither of whom is related to or under abnormal pressure from the other

Assessed value – dollar amount assigned to the taxable property, both real (by parcel) and personal (by owner), by the assessor for the purpose of taxation. Assessed value is estimated as of January 1 and will apply to the taxes levied at the end of that year. Assessed value is called a primary assessment because a levy is applied directly against it to determine the tax due. Accurate assessed values ensure fairness between properties within the taxing jurisdiction (see Equalized value for fairness between municipalities)

Assessment level – relationship between the assessed value and the equalized value of non-manufacturing property minus corrections for prior year over or under charges within a municipality (town, village or city). For example, if the assessed value of all the property subject to property tax in the municipality is $2,700,000 and the equalized value (with no prior year corrections) in the municipality is $3,000,000 then the “assessment level” is said to be 90 percent ($2,700,000 ÷ $3,000,000 = .90 or 90%)

Assessment ratio – relationship between the assessed value and the statutory valuation standard (fair market value for most property, use value for agricultural land, and 50 percent of full value for agricultural forest and undeveloped lands). For example, if the assessment of a parcel which sold for $150,000 (fair market value) was $140,000, the assessment ratio is said to be 93 percent (140,000 divided by 150,000). The difference in the assessment level and the assessment ratio is that the level typically refers to the taxation district; the ratio refers to the individual parcel.

Equalized value – estimated value of all taxable real and personal property in each taxation district, by class, as of January 1 and certified by DOR on August 15 of each year. The value represents market value (most probable selling price), except for agricultural property, which is based on its use (ability to generate agricultural income) and agricultural forest and undeveloped lands, which are based on 50 percent of their full value.

Full value – (1) term means the value at 100 percent of the value standard. This is the value that should be applied in assessing the property per Wisconsin statutes, see pages 7-6 and 7-7 of the WPAM. (2) The same as equalized value, however is often used when referring to the value of school and special districts.

Levy – amount of tax imposed by a taxation jurisdiction or government unit
Market value – most probable price which a property should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably, and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus. Implicit in this definition is the consummation of a sale as of a specified date and the passing of title from seller to buyer under conditions whereby:

1. Buyer and seller are typically motivated;
2. Both parties are well informed or well advised, and acting in what they consider their own best interests;
3. Reasonable time is allowed for exposure in the open market;
4. Payment is made in terms of cash in U.S. dollars or in terms of financial arrangements comparable thereto; and
5. Price represents the normal consideration for the property sold unaffected by special or creative financing or sales concessions granted by anyone associated with the sale

Reassessment – revaluation of all properties within a given jurisdiction for the purpose of establishing a new tax base

Revaluation – placing new values on all taxable property for the purpose of a new assessment. The previous year’s assessment roll is not affected. The term is often used in conjunction with sec. 70.055, Wis. Stats., where expert help can be hired to work with the assessor in revaluing the district.

Tax rate (levy rate) – rate generally expressed in dollars per hundred or dollars per thousand (mills) applied against the tax base (assessed value) to compute the amount of taxes. The tax rate is derived by dividing the total amount of the tax levy by the total assessed value of the taxing district.

Taxation district – town, village, or city. If a city or village lies in more than one county, that portion of the city or village which lies in each county (see sec. 74.01(6), Wis. Stats.)

Taxing jurisdiction – entity which is authorized by law to levy taxes on general property which is located within its boundaries (see sec. 74.01(7), Wis. Stats.). In addition to towns, villages and cities, this includes school districts, sewerage districts and lake rehabilitation districts, for example.
VI. Contact Information

Equalization Bureau
Contact Information

Eau Claire District Office (79)
610 Gibson St, Ste. 7
Eau Claire, WI 54701-2650
eqleau@wisconsin.gov
Ph: (715) 836-2866 Fax: (715) 836-6690

Green Bay District Office (81)
200 N. Jefferson St, Ste. 126
Green Bay, WI 54301-5100
eqlgrb@wisconsin.gov
Ph: (920) 448-5195 Fax: (920) 448-5207

Madison District Office (76)
Mailing Address
PO Box 8909 #6-301
Madison, WI 53708-8909

Street Address
2135 Rimrock Rd #6-301
Madison, WI 53713-1443
eqlmsn@wisconsin.gov
Ph: (608) 266-8184 Fax: (608) 267-1355

Milwaukee District Office (77)
819 N. 6th St, Rm. 530
Milwaukee, WI 53203-1682
eqlmke@wisconsin.gov
Ph: (414) 227-4455 Fax: (414) 227-4071

Wausau District Office (80)
730 N. Third St
Wausau, WI 54403-4700
eqlwau@wisconsin.gov
Ph: (715) 842-5885 Fax: (715) 848-1033
Certification Statement

As the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR), I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with secs. 227.10 and 227.11, Wis. Stats. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Peter Barca
Secretary of Revenue