



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

## CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: January 24, 2022  
TIME: 8:39 AM

WSR 22-04-025

**Agency:** Department of Revenue

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

- 31 days after filing.  
 Other (specify) (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

- Yes  No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** The department is amending WAC 458-18-010 to incorporate 2021 legislation, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5251, Section 24. This section of the legislation clarified the use of the seasonally adjusted consumer price index as a method to calculate the income thresholds.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New:  
Repealed:  
Amended: WAC 458-18-010 Deferral of special assessments and/or property taxes-Definitions  
Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 84.38.180

**Other authority:**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 21-23-054 on November 10, 2021 (date).  
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Web site:  
Other: An analysis was not prepared.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	___

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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**The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:**

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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**The number of sections adopted using:**

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

**Date Adopted:** January 24, 2022

**Name:** Atif Aziz

**Title:** Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-016, filed 1/24/20, effective 2/24/20)

**WAC 458-18-010 Deferral of special assessments and/or property taxes—Definitions.** (1) **Introduction.** This rule provides definitions of the terms used to administer the deferral program in chapter 84.38 RCW and this section through WAC 458-18-100 for special assessments and/or property taxes on residential housing.

(2) **"Boarding house"** means a residence in which lodging and meals are provided. Each resident of a boarding house is charged a lump sum to cover the costs of lodging and meals with no separate accounting for the fair selling price of the meals.

(3) **"Claimant"** means a person who either elects under chapter 84.38 RCW or is required under RCW 84.64.050, to defer payment of special assessments and/or real property taxes accrued on their residence by filing a declaration to defer as allowed under chapter 84.38 RCW. Only one individual per household may file a declaration to defer.

(4) **"Cooperative housing"** means any existing structure, including surrounding land and improvements, which contains one or more dwelling units and is owned by:

(a) An association with resident shareholders who are granted renewable leasehold interests in dwelling units in the building. Unlike owners of a condominium, the resident shareholders who hold a renewable leasehold interest do not own their dwelling units; or

(b) An association organized under the Cooperative Association Act (chapter 23.86 RCW).

(5) **"Department"** means the state department of revenue.

(6) **"Devisee"** has the same meaning as provided in RCW 21.35.005: Any person designated in a will to receive a disposition of real or personal property.

(7) **"Domestic partner"** means a person registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a partner in a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(8) **"Domestic partnership"** means a partnership registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(9) **"Equity value"** means the amount by which the true and fair value of a residence exceeds the total amount of all liens, obligations, and encumbrances against the property, excluding deferral liens. As used in this context, the "true and fair value" of a residence is the value shown on the county tax rolls maintained by the assessor for the assessment year in which the deferral claim is made.

(10) **"Fire and casualty insurance"** means a policy with an insurer that is authorized by the state insurance commission to insure property in this state.

(11) **"Heir"** has the same meaning as provided in RCW 21.35.005: Any person, including the surviving spouse, who is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the property of a decedent.

(12) **"Income threshold"** means:

(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2020, a combined disposable income equal to (~~forty-five thousand dollars~~) \$45,000; and

(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2020 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of the income threshold for the previous year, or (~~seventy-five~~) 75 percent of the county median household income, adjusted every five years beginning August 1, 2019, and by March 1st every fifth year thereafter, as provided in RCW 84.36.385.

(i) Beginning with the adjustment made by March 1, 2024, and every second adjustment thereafter, if the income threshold in a county is not adjusted based on percentage of county median income, then the income threshold must be adjusted based on the growth of the seasonally adjusted consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the prior (~~twelve-month~~) 12-month period as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(ii) In no case may the adjustment be greater than one percent and if the income threshold adjustment is negative, the income threshold for the prior year continues to apply. The adjusted threshold must be rounded to the nearest one dollar.

(13) "**Irrevocable trust**" means a trust that may not be revoked after its creation by the trustor.

(14) "**Lease for life**" means a lease that terminates upon the death of the lessee.

(15) "**Lien**" means any interest in property given to secure payment of a debt or performance of an obligation, including a deed of trust. A lien includes the total amount of special assessments and/or property taxes deferred and the interest. It also may include any other outstanding balances owed to local governments for special assessments.

(16) "**Life estate**" means an estate that consists of total rights to use, occupy, and control real property but is limited to the lifetime of a designated party; this party is often called a "life tenant."

(17) "**Local government**" means any city, town, county, water-sewer district, public utility district, port district, irrigation district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, or other political subdivision authorized to levy special assessments.

(18) "**Perjury**" means the willful assertion as to a matter of fact, opinion, belief, or knowledge made by a claimant upon the declaration to defer that the claimant knows to be false.

(19) "**Real property taxes**" means ad valorem property taxes levied on a residence in this state. The term includes foreclosure costs, interest, and penalties accrued as of the date the declaration to defer is filed.

(20) "**Residence**" is defined as:

(a) A single-family dwelling unit whether the unit is separate or part of a multiunit dwelling and includes up to one acre of the parcel of land on which the dwelling stands. Residence also includes any additional property up to a total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if local land use regulations require this larger parcel size; or

(b) A single-family dwelling situated upon lands the fee of which is vested in the United States or any instrumentality of the United States, including an Indian tribe, or in the state of Washington.

(21) "**Revocable trust**" means an agreement that entitles the trustor to have the full right to use the real property and to revoke the trust and retake complete ownership of the property at any time during their lifetime. The trustee of a revocable trust holds only bare legal title to the real property. Full equitable title to the property remains with the trustor; the original property owner.

(22) "**Rooming house**" means a residence where persons may rent rooms.

(23) "**Special assessment**" means the charge or obligation imposed by a local government upon real property specially benefited by improvements.