

California Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

California offers an exemption for disabled veterans.

The California Constitution and Revenue and Taxation Code Section 205.5 provides a property tax exemption for the home of a disabled veteran or an unmarried spouse of a deceased disabled veteran.

See: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> - Code RTC, Code Section 205.5

The Disabled Veterans' Exemption reduces the property tax liability on the principal place of residence of qualified veterans who, due to a service-connected injury or disease, have been rated 100% disabled or are being compensated at the 100% rate due to unemployability.

There are two levels of the Disabled Veterans' Exemption:

Basic - The basic exemption, also referred to as the \$100,000 exemption, is available to all qualifying claimants. The exemption amount is compounded annually by an inflation factor. For example, for 2018, the basic exemption amount was \$134,706.

Low-Income - The low-income exemption, also referred to as the \$150,000 exemption, is available to qualifying claimants whose annual household income does not exceed a specified income limit. The amounts for both the low-income exemption and the annual income limit are compounded annually by an inflation factor. For example, for 2018, the low-income exemption amount was \$202,060 and the annual household income limit was \$60,490

An unmarried surviving spouse may also be eligible if the service person died as the result of a service-connected injury or a disease incurred while on active duty or as the result of active duty. In other words, a Veteran may not have been eligible during his or her lifetime, but the surviving spouse may become eligible for the exemption upon the Veteran's death.

The exemption is only available on a veteran's principal place of residence. The home may only receive one property exemption. Thus, if a homeowner's exemption has been granted on a property and the owner subsequently qualifies for the disabled veterans exemption, the homeowner's exemption should be cancelled to allow for the disabled veterans exemption as it provides the greater benefit.

For specific details regarding the requirements and how to apply for the 2 exemptions please visit:
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Property-Tax-Exemptions.aspx>



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