



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**ASSESSING DEPARTMENT**  
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A key component of the city's continuing effort to support Cambridge small businesses is the adoption of the small business personal property exemption. For last year, Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), the city adopted the maximum personal property exemption allowed by law for \$10,000. This exempted 1,194 small businesses from receiving a personal property tax bill.

For FY22, Cambridge's home rule petition to increase this amount to \$20,000 was signed by the Governor and was adopted by the City Council. The doubling of the exemption for this fiscal year will exempt 1,553 small business accounts. The larger personal property exemption amount means that a small business in Cambridge with assets under \$20,000 will save \$224.60 and will not receive a personal property bill at all.

This is an important part of the City's actions to help small business in Cambridge through a combination of programs including small business initiatives, grants, reducing licensing fees, provision of key services (including recycling and composting pilots), and tax relief. The city has been particularly focused on efforts to assist small businesses dealing with the ramifications of COVID-19. The City Manager and department staff will continue to look for additional ways to support Cambridge's small businesses.

If you have any additional questions about the personal property exemption, please contact the Assessing department at 617-349-4343 or [assessors@cambridgema.gov](mailto:assessors@cambridgema.gov)