

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM
OPPOSING A STATEWIDE NON OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTY TAX**

**May 6, 2025
R-08-2025**

Whereas, seasonal and vacation-home owners are valued members of the Block Island community and contribute significantly to the property tax base, to the Island's charitable organizations and to the economies of Block Island and Rhode Island; and

Whereas, seasonal and vacation-home owners are generally excellent stewards of their properties; and

Whereas, local property tax is the single largest revenue tool available to New Shoreham, representing 70% of general fund revenues; and

Whereas, the Town of New Shoreham works diligently within its authority to evaluate and adapt its property tax classification system to meet local needs and challenges in a way that aligns with community values; and

Whereas, non owner occupied properties share in a locally established property tax system designed to balance year round and seasonal cost burdens through the direct levying of taxes by New Shoreham voters at an annual Financial Town Meeting; and

Whereas, the State's power to tax rests more appropriately with income tax, sales tax and other tools; and

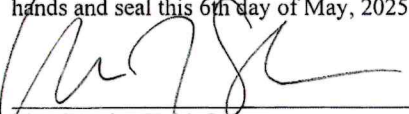
Whereas, up to 85% of New Shoreham's residential properties may be classified as non owner occupied and more than 80% of New Shoreham's residential properties are assessed over \$800,000; and

Whereas, the prosed legislation could levy a statewide property tax on the majority of properties in New Shoreham, more than doubling the total property tax burden for those properties; and

Whereas, a statewide property tax would undermine local authority to manage the impacts of its largest revenue source on its taxpayers,

NOW, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Town Council of the Town of New Shoreham objects to legislation imposing a statewide property tax on non owner occupied properties, regardless of how the revenue may be distributed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made part of the permanent record of the Town and the resolution be forwarded to the State Senator and Representative of the Town, the League of Cities and Town and all of the City and Town Councils of Rhode Island. Witness our hands and seal this 6th day of May, 2025.



First Warden Keith Stover

Second Warden Nancy Dodge



Town Councilor Tristan Payne



Town Councilor Margaret O'Neill



Town Councilor William McCombe



Attest: Town Clerk Millicent Highet