

The Tax Committee follows the North Carolina General Statutes or previously established general guidelines in their recommendations of relief for assessed late list penalties (no relief, partial relief, full relief). The committee also considers refunds and special situations and makes recommendations regarding requests for relief of interest.

Consideration of relief of late list penalties:

- If a taxpayer is new to North Carolina and fails to list the first year required, he may be granted one-time relief for late list penalties, partially or in full.
- If a taxpayer has property that should have been listed and is unaware of the tax laws, he may be granted one-time relief for late list penalties, partially or in full.
- If a taxpayer has listed timely in at least two consecutive years immediately prior to the year for which a penalty is assessed, the penalty may be relieved, partially or in full.
- If a taxpayer inadvertently omitted items from his timely listing, the penalty may be relieved, partially or in full.
- If a taxpayer was involved in military deployment and was unable to list timely, the penalty may be relieved, partially or in full.
- If a taxpayer was unable to list due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. – hospitalization), the penalty may be relieved, partially or in full.
- Guidelines have been established for companies with penalties assessed as a result of audits. Relief may be granted partially or in full if it appears there was no willful attempt to understate value, if the taxpayer was cooperative and forthright during the audit and if there were no significant issues with their previous listings. The recommendation of the auditor is carefully considered in making this determination.

Consideration of Refund or Special Situations:

- The tax committee will recommend approval of refunds if the request complies with NCGS 105-381. The general statute, or if case law exists that is clear and generally supports the request. A refund has been requested for a tax imposed through a clerical error, an illegal tax, or a tax levied for an illegal purpose.

Consideration of requests for relief of interest:

- Once interest accrues, it is considered tax per NCGS 105-273(15). Tax cannot be compromised per NCGS 105-380. Therefore the tax committee typically recommends denial of requests for relief of interest. Should a situation arise in which the committee determines that interest should be relieved, the Assessor will request the item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately by the Board of Commissioners.