

Once the voters have voted to apply a prepayment discount to real estate taxes, must the question be asked again each year at town meeting?

The answer to this question depends upon how the original question was phrased. For example, if the article read, *Shall the town give a 4% discount on real estate taxes paid on or before the tax due date?* the answer to your question would be “no,” it does not have to be re-voted each year. It is the Law Center’s opinion that the prepayment discount policy continues into future years until the voters vote to repeal it. On the other hand, if the original question was worded, *“Shall the voters give a 4% discount on real estate taxes paid on or before the July 1, 2000 due date?”* the answer would be “yes” because the prepayment discount clearly only applies to a specific tax due date. As you can see, it is important to phrase the question in a manner that clearly accomplishes the intended goal.

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