

A Brief History of the County Excise Tax in Barnstable County

Barnstable County is the only County in the Commonwealth that has its own Excise Tax. The purpose of this tax is to assist in funding the operation of the Cape Cod Regional Government (a/k/a Barnstable County) and to provide regional services to the taxpayers of the County.

Prior to the establishment of the County Charter there was only a State Excise Tax and the rate in 1988 was \$2.28 per \$1,000. (State Excise only).

On **4/1/1989** with the establishment of the County Charter it was voted to provide for a county excise tax that could match the state excise rate.

County Excise Tax imposed to match the state rate. \$2.28 per \$1,000. **Total** excise burden in Barnstable County was **\$4.56 per \$1,000**. County [Ordinance 89-03](#).

(Total Excise burden in all other counties remained at \$2.28 per \$1,000).

On **7/1/1992** The State Excise rate increased in Barnstable County only by \$1.14 per \$1,000 to \$3.42 per \$1,000. At that time the excise rate in Barnstable County was \$3.42 for the State and \$2.28 for the County for a combined **total was \$5.70 per \$1,000**.

(In all other counties, the rate was increased by \$2.28 for a total of \$4.56 per \$1,000).

7/1/2009 County excise was raised by \$0.42 per \$1,000 to \$2.70. **Total** state and county excise was **\$6.12 per \$1,000**. [Ordinance 09-03](#) as amended by (Corrective) [Ordinance 09-06](#).

7/1/2016 County excise raised by \$0.36 per \$1,000 to \$3.06. **Total** state and county excise is **currently \$6.48 per \$1,000**. [Ordinance 16-05](#).