



# Town of Malta Establishment of Ambulance District Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) | May 2021

## What is an ambulance district?

An ambulance district provides 24/7 EMS and critical emergency ambulance services to residents within a specific jurisdiction and is funded by those taxpayers.

## How is this different from the service we have now?

Currently, the town of Malta provides annual funding from within the town-wide general fund operating budget. The town has no general town tax. The town currently contracts with Malta-Stillwater Ambulance Corps (MAC). The creation of an ambulance district authorizes the town to tax district property owners for the emergency services at a minimal tax rate based on assessed value.

## Why establish an ambulance district in the town of Malta?

Malta-Stillwater EMS has diligently served the local community for the past 60 years, responding to a record number of emergency calls (376) in April alone; the highest number of calls in a single month. As a not-for-profit corporation, the cost of business has increased and has outpaced revenue. Patients' insurance premiums are insufficient to cover operating costs without municipal funding. Due to New York state mandates and training requirements, most staff are now paid, rather than volunteer. Additionally, the need for EMS and critical emergency ambulance services will only increase due to economic/population growth in the town and an aging population. In order to continue to provide the high-quality care residents have come to expect, a taxing district is necessary to ensure that general funds are available to meet increased demands.

## Who will benefit from this ambulance district?

All 16,000+ residents in the entire town of Malta, including the Village of Round Lake, will be eligible for services.

## How much will this cost?

Residents will vote on a proposed budget of \$470,000, resulting in a tax rate of \$0.17 per \$1,000 of Taxable Assessed Value. This amounts to \$26.21 annually for a property assessed at \$150,000 or less than \$.08 cents per day. See chart below.

Assessed Value	Estimated Ambulance District Tax
150,000	\$26.21
250,000	\$43.68
350,000	\$61.15

## Why are your service prices higher than the towns of Wilton and Clifton Park?

The price differential is minimal and we were approved back in 2017 by the Malta and Stillwater town boards. The prices for services don't necessarily reflect what is collected. Commercial insurances have traditionally paid approximately 95-100% of the bill, as they are funded by employers or the employee directly. Medicare and Medicaid have set rates much lower than our costs.

## When is the vote?

The town board will vote on June 7 to determine if the ambulance district will be placed on the ballot for November.

## What happens if the vote doesn't pass?

Without the steady funding an ambulance district would need to provide the essential services to maintain the highest level of medical care, MAC will have to share the town's general revenues with other departments and agencies, which could impact servicing the needs of the community. As the town continues to grow and other demands increase, MAC must remain viable and able to meet those needs.