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"I am so happy!"  
— Ava Fuchs on the Long Beach school board deciding not to close East Elementary School, a cost-cutting move opposed by hundreds of parents



## HUNTINGTON BOARD TOUGHENS ACCESSORY UNIT RULES

BY MACKENZIE ISSLER  
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The Huntington Town board has unanimously approved amendments to its accessory apartment law to close some loopholes in the code.

Town law already bars the addition of accessory apartments in homes that are not occupied by the owner. Amendments passed Tuesday include a long list of documents that must be supplied to the accessory apartment hearing officer when a claim of ownership is made. The required documents could include certified copies of the deed and tax returns.

"It is important that landlords don't try to gauge the system and find a loophole to create accessory apartments in non-owner-occupied dwellings," said town board member Susan Berland, who sponsored the resolution, which passed 5-0.

Berland said there have been cases where owners who rent their properties have tried to skirt the law by claiming to give their tenant a 1 percent ownership stake so they can apply for an accessory apartment.

Berland said legal accessory apartments are "very important for a number of reasons." They can help owners economically maintain their homes and provide rental housing in the town, she said.

Huntington resident Lauri Mailloux, who suspects there are illegal apartments in her community, spoke in favor of the changes at a public hearing before the town board voted. She said changing the law would help "spare" neighborhoods the threats to quality of life that illegal apartments pose.



**READER PHOTO BY LAURA KEENA, Farmingdale**

It's even too cold for Frosty these days. | Submit your photos at [newsday.com/shareit](http://newsday.com/shareit)

**Notable on newsday.com:**

Edited comments from readers

On NIFA chairman Jon Kaiman proposing options that could help lift Nassau County's three-year wage freeze:

“How has the county deficit continued to get bigger under NIFA's watch? Where is the outside investigation? The union freeze over three years saved the county \$200 million+!”

— OVERON7

“Taxpayers have had a free ride for too long in Nassau County, living off of the employees' money. Time to raise taxes. It's been years.”

— CLINGER

“Nobody should be stuck at \$30,000 for three years on Long Island, especially law enforcement! If you get what you pay for, \$30,000 doesn't sound very safe. Where are our priorities?”

— ABCI23

“Why can't the county collect on the hundreds of millions that are owed by [those] who don't pay their vehicular fines? Boot their cars or take them. Stop giving them chances to pay.”

— KIMBERLY12345678

“What does 'and the county finds additional revenue' mean, tax increases? Governments don't find additional revenue, they raise taxes and fees or ask for state or federal aid, which requires those governments to raise taxes and fees. In the case of the federal government, that also means printing and borrowing money.”

— @FELIX PROCACCI

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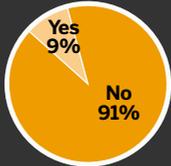


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