

If you cannot pay taxes in full, pay as much as possible by 2/2/09 and contact us for a payment arrangement.

Q & A HOW TO SAVE FOR NEXT YEAR'S TAXES

Topic: prepayment of property taxes

Q1: I just paid off my mortgage and would like to save for next year's tax payment. Does the tax office escrow for next year?

A1: Yes, we will draft from a savings or checking account once monthly to help you save for next year's taxes. See details online at www.traviscountytax.org. Select Payment Options in the Property menu. Or, call us.

Q & A HOUSE BILL 1010

Topic: appraisal and collections

Q1: How does HB 1010 affect my property?

A1: HB 1010 states that all property must be appraised by the appraisal district located in the same county. In the past, many taxing units that crossed county lines could opt for appraisal by a neighboring county. In conjunction with HB 1010 and to improve taxpayer service, Williamson and Travis Counties have agreed to collect taxes for all properties within the borders of their respective counties.

Q & A WHAT TO DO IF YOU CANNOT PAY TAXES

Topics: payment plan, penalties

Q1: What should I do if I can't pay taxes?

A1: Pay as much as possible before 2/2/09 and contact the tax office for a payment plan.

Q2: What do I need for a payment plan?

A2: You will need the property account number, the name and daytime telephone number of the person making payments and a proposed schedule of payment. Send by mail, email or call us.

Q3: What is the penalty for late payment?

A3: On February 3, 2009, 6% penalty and 1% interest accrue on the unpaid balance. Penalty and interest increase each month and total 18% in July, 24% after one year.

Q4: What happens if taxes remain unpaid?

A4: Owners of unpaid accounts receive delinquent tax notices. In failing to pay taxes, owners risk costly lawsuits and foreclosure.

TRAVIS COUNTY TAX OFFICE

√ PROPERTY TAX

√ VOTER REGISTRATION

√ VEHICLE REGISTRATION

√ VEHICLE TITLE TRANSFER

2008 / 2009

TRAVIS COUNTY TAXPAYER NEWS

CONTACT US:

- Online at www.traviscountytax.org
- By telephone at (512) 854 9473
- In person Monday – Friday at the following locations:
 - 7:30 am – 5:30 pm CENTRAL at 5501 Airport Blvd., 78751 between 53 ½ & Koenig Drive thru service
 - 8 am – 5 pm EAST at 4705 Heflin Ln., near Springdale & MLK Drive thru service
 - 8 am – 5 pm NORTH in Pflugerville at 15822 Foothill Farms Loop, off 1825 Drive thru service
 - 8 am – 5 pm WEST in Oak Hill at 8656 Highway 71, 1 mile west of the Y, Bldg B Suite 200
 - 8 am – 5 pm SOUTH near ABIA at 4011 McKinney Falls Pkwy Drive thru service
- By mail: Nelda Wells Spears
P O Box 149328 / Austin, TX
78714-9328

KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

Q & A

HOW TO SAVE ON PROPERTY TAXES

Topic: Exemptions equal lower taxes

Q1: Who can get a homestead exemption?

A1: If you own and live in the home on January 1 of the tax year you qualify to apply.

Q2: How can I confirm my exemption?

A2: Confirm by checking box #6 on your tax bill for the letter "H". If you are a senior or disabled taxpayer, it will show "S" or "D".

Q3: How do I apply for an exemption?

A3: Contact us if you need a form or download it at www.traviscountytax.org

Q4: Where do I file the exemption?

A4 File exemptions at the Travis Central Appraisal District www.traviscad.org

Q5: Is there a charge to file?

A5: No, there is no charge to file. Beware of letters from private concerns offering to file the application for a fee.

Q & A

PAYMENT DUE DATE

Topic: payment deadline

Q1: When are taxes due?

A1: January 31 is the usual deadline, however, in 2009, that day falls on a Saturday. By law, the due date is automatically extended to February 2, 2009. If the postmark on the envelope shows February 2 or earlier, the payment will be considered timely regardless of the date received.

Q & A

SENIOR & DISABLED PROPERTY OWNERS

Topics: More exemptions, quarterly payment plan, tax deferral

Q1: What is the over-65 / disabled exemption ?

A1: Just like the residence homestead exemption, it lowers the tax amount due and can only be applied where you live. Check box # 6 on your tax bill for either letter S or D to confirm this exemption.

Q2: When can I apply for an over-65 exemption?

A2: Apply as soon as you reach age 65.

Q3: I am disabled. How do I apply?

A3: The disability exemption is based on federal guidelines. Contact Travis Central Appraisal District for details.

Q4: What payment options are available?

A4: Seniors and disabled persons may pay taxes in 4 equal installments due at the end of January, March, May and July. To enroll, send a Letter of Intent with 1/4 payment by February 2, 2009. Call us for details or download the Letter of Intent at www.traviscountytax.org. Select "Payment Options" from the Property menu.

Q5: Is there an option to defer taxes?

A5: Yes, seniors and disabled taxpayers may defer taxes to be paid at a future date, at a reduced penalty rate of 8% per year, as compared to 24% per year. Contact the tax office for details.

Q & A

HOW TO MAKE A TAX PAYMENT

Topics: Payment by mail, by telephone, online, in person and drop box

Q1: How do I send a payment by mail?

A1: Tear off the bottom portion of the tax bill, the payment coupon, and mail it in the green envelope with your check, cashier's check or money order. Do not mail cash or credit card information.

Q2: How do I pay by telephone?

A2: Call (512) 854 9473 from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm weekdays with your credit card. See additional credit card details below.

Q3: How do I make a payment online?

A3: Access www.traviscountytax.org and select "Pay Taxes" from the Property menu. Follow the prompts to access your account.. Use a credit card or electronic check. See details below.

Q4: How do I make a payment in person?

A4: Visit any of the 5 tax office locations listed on the front of this brochure. Cash payment can only be made in person.

Q5: Is there a drop box for payments?

A5: Yes, deposit a personal or cashier's check, or money order ONLY in the red drop boxes at 5501 Airport Boulevard.

Q6: What credit cards can I use?

A6: Pay with American Express, VISA, MasterCard and Discover. There is a 3% convenience fee collected by the vendor. The maximum charge for e-check is \$40.