



www.traviscountytax.org
(512) 854-9473

Nelda Wells Spears
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
& Voter Registrar

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATTENTION DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS! TRAVIS COUNTY NOTIFIES 30,000 OF UNPAID BILLS

(AUSTIN) — Over 30,000 Travis County property owners with unpaid taxes received (or will soon receive) notice by mail to pay up or face additional penalties. As of February 1, 2011 all unpaid property taxes automatically accrued 7% penalty and interest; the schedule of penalty and interest is dictated by the Texas Property Tax Code.

Delinquent taxpayers may contact the tax office at (512) 854-9473 to arrange a payment plan. They may apply in person at the main tax office location, 5501 Airport Boulevard from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM weekdays. They may also apply for a payment plan online at www.traviscountytax.org.

"The Texas Property Tax Code is very clear about actions that must be taken to collect delinquent taxes," says Nelda Wells Spears, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector. "The law states that we must notify taxpayers of delinquent status and we must assess penalty and interest. There is nothing in the law that allows waiving penalty and interest for those who missed the delinquency date," she said.

Of the 380,000 accounts listed on the tax roll, 94.80% paid before the February 1 delinquency date. Of the \$2.2 billion levied by all taxing units, \$2,159,649,806.92 has been collected. The base amount that remains unpaid is \$93,499,289.13.

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All unpaid taxes follow a schedule of penalty and interest that increases each month starting at 7% of the base amount of taxes due. By the fifth month of delinquency, the penalty and interest reaches 18%. In a year's time, the total is 24%.

Taxpayers miss the deadline for various reasons. Some who came to pay the day after or a few days after the February 1 delinquency date complained that there is no grace period. Texas law does provide a grace period as defined in the following. By law, property tax bills are due upon receipt and most people receive their tax bill approximately 3 months before the delinquency date. Those three months greatly exceed the 21 days grace period required by Texas law.

Delinquent taxpayers must notify the tax office to avoid legal action beyond accrual of penalty and interest. For those who qualify, a payment arrangement prevents legal action as long as the taxpayer adheres to the agreement. Owners of 4,055 properties have signed payment agreements for 2010 tax payment.

Call (512) 854-9473 between the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM weekdays for assistance.