



www.traviscountytax.org
(512) 854-9473

Tina Morton
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
& Voter Registrar

Main Office: 5501 Airport Blvd
Austin, TX 78751-1410
Satellite Offices: 4011 McKinney Falls Pky
15822 Foothill Farms Loop
8656 Highway 71 W
4705 Heflin Ln

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Tiffany Seward
854-9706
tiffany.seward@co.travis.tx.us

CAN'T PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

APPLY ONLINE FOR A MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN!

(AUSTIN) — Travis County taxpayers who need to make arrangements to pay property taxes may apply online at <http://www.traviscountytax.org/goOPA.do>. This service not only provides taxpayers with an online application and immediate response, it also allows the applicant to view exactly what monthly payments will be with penalty and interest.

With the 2011 property tax deadline (January 31, 2012) close at hand, taxpayers who need to explore payment options will find the service a useful tool in decision making. By law, penalty and interest begin to accrue on all unpaid taxes starting February 1, 2012. In the first month of delinquency, penalty and interest total 7% and increase each month thereafter. In a year's time, the total reaches 24%.

Approximately 5 – 8% of taxpayers each year (19,000 – 30,000) do not pay taxes by the deadline, or do not pay taxes in full. Of these, approximately one-third to one-half arrange payment plans with the tax office. "A payment arrangement does not eliminate the required penalty and interest, but it does protect the owner from further legal action. Taxpayers should contact our office as soon as they know they can't pay in full so we can discuss payment options." says Tina Morton, Tax Assessor-Collector.

Taxpayers may qualify for online approval of a payment arrangement if they agree to:

- pay in full within 12 months on real estate properties
- pay in full within 6 months on business personal properties
- remain in good standing on any other accounts showing current or delinquent taxes due
- provide an email address

Taxpayers may submit a down payment but it is not required. Down payments may be submitted online, by mail, or in person.

The online service provides a convenient alternative to mail and personal visits to the tax office. More importantly, it allows the taxpayer to fully understand the impact of penalty and interest. If the taxpayer chooses to make a down payment, he or she can adjust monthly payments based on varying down payment amounts.

There are several other ways to contact the tax office to request a payment plan:

- Send an email requesting a payment arrangement to Tax_Office@co.travis.tx.us
- Send a request by regular mail to: Travis County Tax Office / P O Box 149328 / Austin, TX 78714-9328 including your contact information for a return call, email or letter back from our office
- Request a payment arrangement in person by visiting the main tax office location at 5501 Airport Boulevard, Austin, TX 78751
- Request a payment arrangement by telephone at (512) 854-9473.

Office hours for telephone customers and visitors at the main office are 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday.