



PUBLICAN'S POSTINGS



Treasurer- Tax Collector Offices Closed to the Public Until at Least April 7th

To comply with orders issued by Governor Newsom and the Alameda County Public Health Department we closed our offices in Oakland and Hayward to the public starting Friday, March 20th, until at least April 7th. This will affect about 15,000 people who usually walk in our doors during the last 3 weeks of busy season (as we call it).

We continue to accept payments online, by phone, and, of course, by mail (we honor the postmark date). Our paramount concern is to protect the health of the public and our employees.

We have received many requests to delay the payment delinquent date of April 10th. This is not under my, nor the County's, authority and can only be changed by the State Legislature. **The delinquent due date for the second installment remains as April 10th.**

Unlike nearly every other tax, including income tax, property tax revenues are not distributed throughout the fiscal year. Instead, nearly all funds—over \$140 billion—are received in the days before the two payment deadlines of December 10 and April 10. Extending the delinquent date by 60 or 90 days would have a dramatic impact on local funding, as almost all local agencies rely on property taxes for the majority of their general funds.

Local agencies are on the front lines responding to the pandemic. From county public health departments to public hospitals and health systems to the sharp pivot school districts are making to deliver food and distance learning to homebound students, the local agencies our organizations represent need at least the usual level of funding. Delaying such a large infusion of general funds for two to three months would have a serious impact on their ability to provide these services.

Furthermore, because both the timing and amount of the property tax is highly predictable, schools, counties, cities, and special districts structure their borrowing for bonds and other debt instruments accordingly. Extending the deadline would put repayment of those debts at risk. Even one agency defaulting could negatively impact bond ratings and interest rates for all agencies for years to come. With the municipal bond market in turmoil and many planned deals being postponed indefinitely, it is exactly the wrong time to roil the situation further.

I understand the difficulty it may be to make your payment at this time, due to layoffs and business closures. I, along with the other Treasurers, are working to figure out how to balance our communities' financial needs and the hardships of the individual taxpayer. Please be assured that we will be doing everything we can for those harmed by COVID-19 economic effects.

I wanted to remind you the many ways to you can make your secured property tax payment:

- **Mail in your check, postmarked by April 10th**
- **Pay On-Line, either by E-Check (no fee) or by credit card (2.5% fee).** Visit <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm> to watch a video from me explaining how to pay by e-check
- **Pay via the phone system at (510) 272-6800**
- **Pay by Bank Bill-Pay.** This should be done well before April 10th, as each bank has its own process for mailing the payments and may take over a week.
- **To avoid cash payments, purchase a cashier's check from a bank or credit union or purchase a money order from the Post Office or retail stores and mail this to the Tax Collector.** Money orders can be obtained through most post offices;

they are sold in amounts of \$1,000 or less; proper identification is needed; the cost is \$1.75 per \$1,000. Typically, banks will waive a fee for cashier's checks for their customers.

- **Wire your payment (view wiring instructions: <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/wire.htm>)**
- **Use our drop box at the entrance of the County Administration building. Please note, this is for checks only, not for cash.**

Some taxpayers may feel it is necessary to have an "official" receipt. Please remember that your cancelled check is your receipt. If you pay on-line, by providing your e-mail address, you will get an immediate receipt via e mail. You can also request a receipt though your payment is being mailed by including a self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you have questions, please call 510-272-6800 or e-mail: ttaxpublicmail@acgov.org. We will continue to update you as things progress, but keep watch on our website, <https://treasurer.acgov.org/index.page>. In the meantime, stay healthy and take care of yourself and your loved ones.