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STATEMENT FROM CASS COOK, TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR, REGARDING COVID-19 AND THE APRIL 10 PROPERTY TAX DEADLINE

I understand that this is a very stressful time, especially for those suffering direct effects from this public health crisis. My office is committed to helping in any way we can. Tulare County property owners affected by the COVID-19 virus may have late penalties cancelled if they are unable to pay their property taxes by the April 10 deadline.

We have no authority to extend the April 10 deadline, as outlined by State Law. However, beginning on April 11, the day after property taxes are due, people unable to pay on time for reasons related to COVID-19 may submit a request for penalty cancellation online ([Click Here](#)). The department has set up a special team to process these requests for those who demonstrate they were affected by the outbreak.

We encourage all property owners who can pay their taxes on time to do so. This revenue helps provide vital services that the public relies on, especially in times like these.

Since County buildings are currently closed to the public during this emergency, there will be no in-person payments. Instead, taxpayers can pay online, via telephone or by mail. There is no cost for e-Check payments online. For online credit/debit card transactions, our card payment processor charges a 2.65 percent service fee.

Please see the attached responses to our most Frequently Asked Questions.

Attachment

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact to Property Taxes

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Prepared by the County of Tulare Tax Collector

1. Can you extend the April 10, 2020 deadline?

Answer: No. The County does not have the authority under State law to extend or postpone the second installment property tax deadline of April 10, 2020.

2. County buildings are no longer open to the public, what are my payment options?

Answer: Although we are not accepting in-person payments currently at our offices, taxpayers can pay online, via telephone or by mail. There is no cost for e-Check payments online. For online credit/debit card transactions, our card payment processor charges a 2.65 percent service fee. Please visit <https://www.tularecountytax.com> to review all payment methods, and several other online self-service options.

3. What if I am unable to make a full property tax payment by April 10, 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19?

Answer: Unfortunately, we cannot accept partial payments. We encourage all property owners who can pay their taxes on time to do so in full. This revenue helps provide vital services that the public relies on, especially in times like these.

4. Can I request a penalty cancellation if I am unable to make a timely payment due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. However, a penalty cancellation is not something that taxpayers request in advance. Beginning on April 11, the day after property taxes become delinquent, taxpayers unable to pay on time for reasons related to COVID-19 may download a request for penalty cancellation on our website ([Click Here](#)).

5. Can the County waive the associated service fees of 2.65 percent for Credit/Debit card payments online and over the telephone?

Answer: No. The County cannot waive the associated service fees of 2.65 percent for credit/debit card transactions. The fees are charged by our card payment processor to facilitate the transaction. As a reminder, there is no cost for e-Check payments online.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact to Property Taxes

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Prepared by the County of Tulare Tax Collector

6. Will property tax amounts be reduced due to economic impact of COVID-19?

Answer: No. Property tax amounts are established on the lien date of January 1 of each year. The property tax amounts currently due for the 2019-2020 Annual Secured Property Taxes have a lien date of January 1, 2019, and therefore, no reduction will be made to the current bill. Should you have questions related to decline-in-value or business personal property valuations, please contact the Office of the Assessor at (559)636-5100 or visit their website at <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/assessor/>

7. If using the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or courier services (FedEx, UPS, etc.) to deliver my property tax payment, and County Buildings are closed, how will my payment be received?

Answer: As of this date, we are receiving mail from the USPS and courier services. If circumstances change, we have the ability to cancel penalties for payments that would have been mailed timely. For more information regarding mailed payments, please click here:

<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/treasurertaxcollector/index.cfm/tax-collector/faqs/understanding-postmarks/>

As a reminder, you can use our website to look up taxes due, request a duplicate bill, and look up payment history. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on all payment options. We also created a [TOP 4 DOs AND DON'Ts](#) with helpful information on property tax payments, including [How To Avoid Penalties](#).

You may also call us at 559-636-5250, or visit our website, www.tularecountytax.com, for additional information. Please note that our call volumes can be heavy and our website has many self-service options.

For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit the [Department of Public Health](#) website. In addition, the County of Tulare has a website with various resources for COVID-19 - <https://tchhsa.org/eng/index.cfm/public-health/covid-19-updates-novel-coronavirus/>.