



MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

THE TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY



Dear Taxpayers,

You are receiving this letter to inform you that I am authorizing a one-month extension to the upcoming property tax deadline. **The new first half due date in Spokane County is May 31st, 2021*.**

I know that many in our community are continuing to face economic hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully this extra time provides a small measure of relief for those who need it.

Below you can find some answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding your property taxes and some important information about available tax assistance programs for seniors and disabled who qualify.

It is an honor to serve you,

*The extension does not apply to delinquent taxes. The payment deadline for mortgage companies who pay taxes on behalf of clients remains April 30th, 2021.

Treasurer's Office Frequently Asked Questions:

How can you extend the property tax deadline?

Under state law, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, a County Treasurer may extend their local property tax due date. Last year, Treasurer Baumgartner authorized a cumulative 105 additional days to pay property taxes, the longest such extension in the state. We do not have the legal authority to eliminate or reduce taxes. If you are able, we encourage you to pay by the original deadline. Your early or on-time payment better allows us to help those facing significant economic hardship. Thank you.

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My property taxes are paid through my mortgage company, why did I receive a full tax statement?

A recent change in state law requires all taxpayers to receive certain information found on annual tax statements. This is the second year that all taxpayers in Spokane County have received a full statement, which replaces the post card you may be used to receiving. If you are unsure whether your taxes are paid through your mortgage company, you should contact them directly.

Why did my property taxes increase?

The Treasurer's Office does NOT set your tax rates or assess your property value. We are responsible for collecting, safeguarding, and investing your public dollars with fairness and accountability. The enclosed tax statement includes a break-down of how your tax dollars are spent. If you have questions or concerns about your property value, please contact the Assessor's Office at 509-477-3698. If you question your tax rate, you should be in touch with the Assessor's Office or the city, county and state legislative officials who set them. Also, on average approximately 39% of your property tax bill has been self-imposed through voter approved levy and bond measures.

Can I pay my taxes online?

Spokane County property tax payments are accepted online via our website. Taxes may also be mailed using the included return envelopes and payment stubs. Due to the Governor's orders, our office regrettably remains closed for in-person services. However, there is a payment drop box outside the Courthouse and our staff are available by phone and email to assist you.

How do I learn more and apply for a Senior or Disabled tax exemption?

The County Assessor's Office administers the Senior or Disabled Tax Exemption program. In some cases, the Treasurer's Office may be able to issue refunds for past taxes up to three years prior if the taxpayer is deemed eligible retroactively. Contact the County Assessor at 509-477-5754 to review your eligibility for a property tax reduction.

You May Qualify If:

- You are a homeowner with \$40,000 or less in household income annually &:
- You are at least 61 years of age, by 12/31/2020 Or
 - You are a disabled person or Veteran with a total disability rating