



Press Release

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Partial payment, prepayment and tax relief programs designed to make paying your property taxes easier

JONESBOROUGH – Property tax notices will hit mailboxes soon. For Washington County residents who need to pay their property tax over several months, County Trustee Rick Storey has great news.

“Washington County is ready to accept partial payments on both your 2018 and 2019 property taxes,” he said. “This is something the Budget Committee, County Commission and the State of Tennessee approved.”

Property owners can make payments at either the Washington County Courthouse in downtown Jonesborough or the county’s office at 378 Marketplace Blvd. Suite 1, in Johnson City.

How Partial Payment Works

Partial payments on 2018 property taxes, which are now past due, can be paid until March 31, 2020. An interest penalty of 1.5% is added at the first of the month to all overdue taxes. Any remaining balance on 2018 taxes goes to the Clerk and Master’s Office for collection on April 1, 2020.

“Once you receive your tax bill for your 2019 property taxes, you can begin making payments,” Storey explained. “Property owners will then have until Feb. 29, 2020, to pay their taxes in full. Beginning on March 1, 2020, a charge of 1.5% interest will be applied each month on the unpaid balance.”

For those county residents who like to budget, Washington County also offers the option to pre-pay your property taxes.

“Technically, prepayments are defined as a tax levy not received from the state,” Storey said. “For instance, a taxpayer can pay any amount on their next year’s taxes up until the Trustee receives that year’s tax roll from the state. We would then apply

the taxpayer's pre-payment to their property tax bill and they could pay the remaining balance in a lump sum, or continue making payments to pay off their now current property taxes."

In both the prepayment and partial payment scenarios, taxpayers can spread out tax payments so that they're not making one large payment.

Property Tax Relief Programs

For some segments of our local population, property taxes can be a financial burden. The Tax Relief Program began in 1973, and provides for property tax relief for qualified elderly and disabled homeowners, as well as disabled veteran homeowners or their surviving spouses. This is a state program funded by appropriations authorized by the General Assembly. Washington County matches up to the state amount, not to exceed billed amount.

"Tax relief is for homeowners meeting certain eligibility requirements, for a part or all of paid property taxes," said Storey. "The most important thing to remember is once on tax relief, you must turn your voucher in or the relief will be voided. You are responsible for paying your property taxes each year."

The staff in the Trustee's Office can assist residents in applying for tax relief. Anyone applying for tax relief must bring their drivers license, Social Security card, and Medicare card. Elderly/disabled residents must also bring proof of their 2018 income. Reimbursement amounts can vary from year to year.

For more information about partial payment or prepayment of your property taxes, or for assistance applying for tax relief, please contact the Trustee's Office at 753-1602.