

**WHATCOM COUNTY
TREASURER'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
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Bellingham, WA 98227-5268
treasurer@co.whatcom.wa.us



STEVEN N. OLIVER
TREASURER

For Immediate Release

Date: September 22, 2020
Contact: Steve Oliver, Whatcom County Treasurer
Phone: 360-778-5165

Whatcom County Treasurer announces second half property tax deadline will not be extended; due November 2

Whatcom County Treasurer, Steve Oliver, announced today that the second half property tax due date will not be extended. Whatcom County property owners who pay their property taxes themselves, rather than through a mortgage lender, have until Monday, November 2 to pay the second half of their 2020 bill. After that date, interest charges and penalties will be added to the tax bill. King, Pierce and Snohomish counties are also maintaining this deadline in their respective jurisdictions. When the October 31 due date falls on a weekend, property taxes are due the next business day.

"We extended the first half payment deadline to June 1 as the COVID-19 pandemic was expanding in our community. Extending the second half deadline is a different situation as many cities, school districts, fire districts and other special purpose districts have bond principal and interest payments due December 1. The bond payments due June 1 are interest only, so it was a much lower financial risk to extend the deadline at that time. A second half due date extension could create significant financial risk to entities that we all rely upon for public services every day," said Oliver.

The County Treasurer previously announced in March that other assistance is available including:

- Payment plans for property taxes on small businesses and primary residences where extraordinary circumstances exist. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at 360-778-5160 for more information.
- Property tax foreclosure shall be suspended for one year until 2021. Property taxes are only subject to property tax foreclosure after they are three years delinquent. The Treasurer's Office will be in contact with property owners that would have been subject to property tax foreclosure this year with additional information.

"If you are going to mail your payment, please do not wait until the last day as your payment may not get postmarked timely. The United States Postal Service is very busy due to increased package delivery demand, and will be busy near the end of October with an additional influx of property tax and election ballot mail," added Oliver

Property Tax Payment Options:

- The County Treasurer's Office is currently closed to the public. If you have paid by cash previously, you will need to get a cashier's check or money order and mail your payment using the address below. DO NOT put cash in the drop boxes.
- By mail **if postmarked on or before November 2**, using the return envelope enclosed with your tax statement, or
Whatcom County Treasurer
PO BOX 34873
Seattle, WA 98124
- Payment drop boxes are located curbside at the north rotunda entrance of the County Courthouse or outside the County Treasurer's Office door on the first floor of the County Courthouse.
- Pay Online or by Phone at www.whatcomcounty.us/treasurer or toll-free at 1-855-461-9815
E-check \$1 fee
Credit/Debit Card 2.35% fee

Whatcom County Treasurer Contact Information:

Phone: (360) 778-5160

Email: treasurer@whatcomcounty.us

Website: www.whatcomcounty.us/treasurer