

April 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information please contact:
Stacie Prada, Jefferson County Treasurer 360-385-9150

**Jefferson County Property Tax Due Date Extension Available
by Application to Treasurer**

PORT TOWNSEND—Jefferson County Treasurer confirmed property taxes are still due April 30, 2020, and a program is available to grant a 60-day extension for taxpayers who have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to pay their first half 2020 taxes by April 30, 2020.

To respond to the economic impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jefferson County Treasurer is exercising her authority under RCW 84.56.020(10) by implementing this program. Taxpayers unable to pay taxes by April 30 may enter into a written agreement with the Treasurer's Office that temporarily forgives interest and penalties for up to 60 extra days at which time the taxes will become due.

According to the Treasurer's Office, the temporary measure applies to both residential and commercial taxpayers for current year taxes. It does not apply to delinquent taxes currently owed. The waiver will also not apply to intermediaries, including mortgage loan servicing companies and other financial institutions that pay property taxes on behalf of their lending customers, as they have already collected from the mortgage holder.

Jefferson County Treasurer Stacie Prada commented, "While some counties have offered a blanket extension to all taxpayers, we are pleased we're able to assist those financially affected and offer a longer extension time frame than we could with a full county due date extension. It has been tough trying to meet the financial needs of our county and districts while offering relief for those financially affected by the pandemic. I want to help our taxpayers, and I want to make sure our districts meet their expense and debt obligations so their bond ratings don't suffer. I want our program to be meaningful and helpful."

Prada added, "I'm grateful to all who have already paid their taxes in full. It's truly been heartwarming the number of people who want to help and are able to pay early. I'm hopeful that those financially affected are seeking available financial assistance now and that a 60-Day extension will allow sufficient time for government agencies to process their paperwork and provide government provided financial relief."

Information on the program including request form and instructions are available on the Jefferson County Treasurer webpage: <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/329/Treasurer>

Because the county office is closed to the public for property tax payments, taxpayers are encouraged to pay online or by mail. Those who usually pay with cash are encouraged to pay by check, money order or cashier's check. Money orders and cashier's checks are available at banks, grocery stores, post offices and other locations that are considered essential services and open during this time. Prada commented, "we're working hard, and we're minimizing our exposure to the public to do our part to prevent spread of the virus."

The Washington State Governor's Office has created a [COVID-19 resource list for impacted Washington businesses and workers](https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources-businesses-and-workers) webpage, and those needing assistance are encouraged to review options. The web address is <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources-businesses-and-workers>

For questions regarding property tax payments and the Emergency Affected Taxpayer Affidavit and extension program, refer to the Treasurer's web page <https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/329/Treasurer> or contact the Jefferson County Treasurer's office by email treasurerstaff@co.jefferson.wa.us or phone 360-385-9150.

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