



**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Adams County Treasurer's Office response to COVID-19 Emergency crisis**

**ADAMS COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS**

Adams county and junior taxing districts rely heavily on property taxes to conduct operations. This includes essential services provided by the schools, hospitals, sheriff's office and fire districts to name a few.

Many counties and local governments have issued bonds that are secured by property tax collection. Many of these are voter-approved bonds that are paid solely by property taxes. Many junior taxing districts have no tax revenue source other than property taxes.

"Adams County property taxes are due on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A delay in the collection of property taxes may have devastating results for many junior taxing districts in this time of crisis. It is critical that the county and junior taxing districts have revenue they depend on for making debt payments, paying pay bills., and to continue to serve the public."

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Treasurer Kayla Meise is exercising her authority under RCW 84.56.020(10) to implement a program that would forgive interest and penalties for those who are unable to pay by the due date. "The way the COVID-19 crisis is handled in the Treasurer's Office is truly a balancing act. This requires the ability to manage the best interests of our constituents, while also addressing the needs of junior taxing districts and the functions of the county." Meise has developed a program to help those affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. Treasurer Meise is not planning to give a blanket extension. Those that have not been affected financially by the outbreak will not be eligible for consideration. Assistance will be targeted at those who have been financially affected by COVID-19, not all who wish to financially benefit from this state of emergency.

Payments can be made via mail and online. Online payments using credit cards or electronic checks may be made online at [https://www.co.adams.wa.us/departments/treasurer/make\\_a\\_payment.php](https://www.co.adams.wa.us/departments/treasurer/make_a_payment.php). Or by calling 1-833-440-6183. There is a fee charged by the service provider of 2.5% for a credit card, \$3.95 for a debit card and \$1.50 for an E-check. A drop box for checks and money orders will be available outside Ritzville City Hall, and outside the County Public Services building in Othello.

“Please know that it brings me great sorrow that this pandemic is having a negative impact on the citizens of Adams County. During this challenging time we must stick together, and help our neighbors as we are able.”

The Treasurer’s Office is working with limited staffing to help stop the spread of COVID-19, but will continue to conduct business through the mail, internet and by telephone during regular business hours. Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

“There is not an easy solution to delay the due date for property taxes. Your consideration and support are greatly appreciated. I thank you for your patience as the Treasurer’s Office delicately navigates our way through this state of emergency. My office will strive to work efficiently and address the needs of everyone.”

For more information, contact the Treasurer’s Office at 509-659-3227.

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