



**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Treasurer to grant measured property tax relief for those most impacted by COVID-19**

RITZVILLE—Adams County Treasurer Kayla Meise will utilize state law to provide measured relief to property owners who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

The treasurer will implement a program to forgive interest and penalties for those unable to pay their property taxes by the April 30 due date.

This will not be a blanket extension. Assistance will only be targeted at those who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. The program will not be available to those who are unable to demonstrate a financial impact as a result of the global pandemic.

“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 critical functions of the county,” Meise said.

Property tax revenues collected by the county treasurer support vital essential services in the form of junior taxing districts including: schools, public hospitals, law enforcement, fire districts, emergency medical services, parks and recreation, and cemetery districts.

Many counties and local governments have issued bonds secured by property tax collection. Most of these are voter-approved bonds that are paid solely by property taxes. Examples include: school construction bonds and EMS levies.

“Adams County property taxes are due April 30. A delay in the collection of property taxes may have devastating results for many junior taxing districts in this time of crisis,” Meise said. “It is critical that the county and junior taxing districts continue to receive the revenue they depend on for making debt payments, paying bills and ensuring continuity of service for the public.”

Meise’s efforts to provide relief to impacted property owners comes from a deep care and concern for the communities that she serves.

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

The Adams County Treasurer’s Office is working with limited staffing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but will continue to conduct business through the mail, internet and by phone during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Property tax 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)

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 Adams County Public Services building in Othello.

For more information, contact the treasurer’s office at (509) 659-3227.