



Charleston County News Release

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County Reaches Out to Residents Who Haven't Paid 2010 Taxes

Treasurer's Office to send letter encouraging people to pay before the penalty increases

The [Charleston County Treasurer's Office](#) will send approximately 11,000 letters on Tuesday, March 2, to residents who have not yet paid their 2010 property taxes. The goal of the letter is to encourage people to pay their taxes by March 16, before the state-imposed fee grows from the current 10 percent penalty to a 15 percent penalty. The original tax bills were sent out at the end of September 2010.

According to the Treasurer's Office, anyone who can pay by March 16 would save approximately \$50 on a tax bill of \$1,000.

"We know this is a tough year for people, so if they can pay their taxes by March 16, they will avoid having to pay the additional five percent penalty and also prevent the taxes from going into a delinquent status," said [Andrew Smith, Charleston County Treasurer](#). "There's also an advantage to the County because a good current collection rate is one of the factors that affects our financial standing, which ultimately helps us keep our triple-A bond rating, and that benefits everyone in the County."

Citizens are reminded that [Charleston County Council](#) made efforts to limit the financial impact on taxpayers by approving the Fiscal Year 2011 budget without raising the millage rate. In addition, Council was able to give homeowners a break on their 2010 tax bills by providing a one-time \$25 credit that was subtracted from the annual \$99 solid waste fee.

BACKGROUND: SC CODE SECTION 12-45-180

- When taxes and assessments are not paid before the sixteenth day of January, the county auditor shall add a penalty of three percent on the county duplicate and the county treasurer shall collect the penalty.
- If the taxes, assessments, and penalty are not paid before the second day of the next February, an additional penalty of seven percent must be added by the county auditor on the county duplicate and collected by the county treasurer.
- If the taxes, assessments, and penalties are not paid before the seventeenth day of the next March, an additional penalty of five percent must be added by the county auditor on the county duplicate and collected by the county treasurer.
- If the taxes, assessments, and penalties are not paid before the seventeenth day of March, the county treasurer shall issue his tax execution to the officer authorized and directed to collect delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties, and costs for their collection as provided in Chapter 51 of this title and they must be collected as required by that chapter

BACKGROUND: CHARLESTON COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

- The Treasurer's Office collects real, personal, motor vehicle and other taxes and oversees their disbursement to County government, municipalities, schools and special taxing districts in Charleston County.
- The Treasurer's Office maintains records of revenues collected by these districts and invests any funds not immediately needed for disbursement.

- The Treasurer is an elected official who serves as the holding agent for funds of many County departments. These departments deposit their funds (such as grants, plat sales, fines and copy fees) with the Treasurer, who invests these monies along with tax collections to generate additional revenues for the County in the form of interest earnings.

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