



News Release

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Tax Bills can be Viewed and Paid Online

Deadline for 2013 bill payment without penalty is Jan. 15, 2014

You've gotten your 2013 tax bill in the mail, what's next? Here's a breakdown of how two [Charleston County Government](#) offices are involved in the tax process:

- [Charleston County Auditor](#): calculates the millage for and **sends out tax bills** on behalf of 41 municipalities and other taxing authorities. In addition, this office calculates, creates and mails tax bills for real estate, mobile homes, motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft and business-owned personal property.
- [Charleston County Treasurer](#): **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 also maintains records of revenues collected by these districts and invests any funds not immediately needed for disbursement. The Treasurer, an elected official, 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.

Important facts to make sure your bills are paid on time and avoid any penalties:

- Citizens can view and pay their 2013 tax bills on the County's website at <http://sc-charleston-county.governmax.com/svc>.
 - o If you have a mortgage and your taxes are escrowed, your mortgage company will receive the tax bill. As the property owner you will be sent a courtesy copy of the bill for your information. The property owner is responsible for notifying the Auditor's office of any changes that need to be made.
 - o All credit/debit cards used for payment of real or personal property taxes will result in a 2.50% fee of the total amount of the taxes being paid to be charged to the cardholder's account.
 - o For any questions on the website, contact the [Charleston County Treasurer's Office](#) at (843) 958-4360.
- **The deadline for payment without penalty is Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014**, per state law (Section 12-45-70).
- Paper copies of the tax bills were mailed beginning Oct. 1, 2013. Anyone expecting a tax bill who has not received it should call the County Auditor's office at (843) 958-4200.
- The delinquent tax sale for those who have not yet paid their 2012 taxes will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 (details: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/News/3692.htm>). **To prevent property from being sold, all 2012 payments must be in the by 5 p. m. on Friday, Dec. 6.**
- Last year, Charleston County added an [unclaimed funds Web page](#) that offers citizens the ability to:
 - o Find out if there is an unclaimed tax sale overage fund due to them as a result of a tax sale.
 - o See instructions and forms to assist them through the process of claiming funds in their name.
 - o Check to see if their name is on the list of unclaimed funds (by clicking on the tax sale year link that their property was involved in).

For a list of frequently asked questions, what to do when your name or address changes, exemptions, etc. , visit <http://taxweb.charlestoncounty.org/docs/Tax/Auditor/faqs.html>.

Frequently Asked Questions

[Change of Address/Name FAQs](#)

[Disability Exemption](#)

[Homestead Exemption FAQs](#)

[Military Exemption](#)

[Motor Vehicle Tax FAQs](#)

[Personal Property Tax FAQs](#)

[Real Estate Tax FAQs](#)

[Treasurer's Office FAQs](#)

I. Change of Address/Name

[Q: How do I change my address/name on my tax records ?](#)

II. Disability Exemption

[What property tax exemptions are available for the disabled ?](#)

III. Homestead Exemption

[What is the Homestead Exemption program?](#)

[How do I qualify for the Homestead Exemption?](#)

[Do I have to apply in person?](#)

[What documents do I need to apply?](#)

[Do I need to reapply annually?](#)

IV. Military Exemption

[What property is included in the Active Duty Military Exemption and how do I apply ?](#)

[Are there any special exemptions for POW's or Medal of Honor recipient?](#)

V. Motor Vehicle Tax

[How do you determine what my motor vehicle is worth?](#)

[What is the assessment ratio on motor vehicles in South Carolina?](#)

[When are vehicle taxes due?](#)

[How do I get a high-mileage discount?](#)

[When I bought my car, the dealership told me they would take care of the taxes and tags. Why did you send me a tax bill?](#)

[I received a tax bill on a motor vehicle that I have sold. What do I need to do?](#)

[If I want to transfer my license plate to a replacement vehicle, what do I need to do?](#)

[If I move out of this state, what should I do with my South Carolina license plate?](#)

[What do I need to do if my mailing address changes? Do I need to let the Auditor know?](#)

[How do I apply for an active-duty Military Exemption?](#)

[How do I apply for the senior citizen discount?](#)

VI. Personal Property Tax

[What is "personal property?"](#)

[When are personal property taxes due?](#)

[How is the value of personal watercraft/aircraft determined?](#)

[What are the assessment ratios for personal property in S. C. ?](#)

[I sold the personal property you have billed me for. What do I do with this bill?](#)

[Can I appeal the value on my boat or airplane?](#)

[How can I claim my live-aboard boat as my primary residence?](#)

[How do I change my address on your records?](#)

[If I own a business or residential rental property, how are taxes determined on associated personal property?](#)

[When are business related personal-property tax returns due?](#)

[What happens if I don't file my business related personal-property tax return on time?](#)

[Are all boats & motors taxable?](#)

[Are boat trailers taxable?](#)

[What does the Military Exemption on personal property cover?](#)

VII. Real Estate Tax

[How does the property tax system work?](#)

[How is my property tax calculated?](#)

[What do you mean by "assessment"?](#)

[If I mail my tax payment, what is the last date it can be postmarked before being considered late?](#)

[Who do I complain to about high taxes?](#)

[What is the value of a mill and does it change?](#)

[How do I apply for a Military Exemption on my mobile home?](#)

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov>
- Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753>
 - o *Board of Elections and Voter Registration:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986>
 - o *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227>
 - o *Emergency Management Department:* <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>
 - o *Zoning and Planning Department:* <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Zoning-Planning-Department/549596221765813>
- See us on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov>
- Watch County Council meetings online <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government>



- written by Jennie Flinn -