

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Certain Taxpayers May Qualify to Defer the Payment of Property
Taxes and Assessments on Their Homestead**

Some taxpayers who are entitled to claim the homestead tax exemption may choose to defer the payment of a portion of the taxes and assessments that are otherwise be due and payable on their homesteaded property as of November first. But, to do so, they must file an application for this tax deferral on or before January 31, 2007.

Leon County Tax Collector Doris Maloy advises that conditions for approval include household income limitations that vary with the age of the applicant. As a result, this type of deferral is best suited to the needs of older, lower income taxpayers who have significant equity in their homestead property but are finding it difficult to pay their current property taxes.

Mrs. Maloy said, "This option is definitely not for everyone. However, for those who qualify, it can be an attractive alternative." She went on to say "Unfortunately, many of our taxpayers who could benefit from this provision in the Florida's property tax law are unaware of its existence. That is why I want to let people know it is available and that, for some of the taxpayers who meet the requirements, it can be quite beneficial."

It is especially important to inform taxpayers of this option at this time of year, because anyone who may wish to defer their 2006 taxes so must apply to do so no later than the last day of January, 2007.

Copies of the application are available upon request at the Tax Collector's office on the second floor of the Bank of America Building at 315 South Calhoun Street in downtown Tallahassee. Also, by calling 850-488-4735, interested parties can speak directly with Tax administration staff, get answers to their questions, and obtain the required application form by mail.

Once approved, the property owner must renew their application annually and maintain appropriate fire and extended loss insurance on the property until all outstanding deferred taxes have been paid.

"Making Taxing Situations Easier"