

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
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November 8, 2005

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**Leon County Tax Collector Explains How Much More Burdensome it
is to Pay Your Property Taxes Late**

Leon County Tax Collector, Doris Maloy, explained that state law provides discounts of up to four percent on Real Property Taxes for those property owners who choose to pay this obligation when it is initially billed in the month of November each year. That discount is reduced each month thereafter through the end of March. On April first of each year, Real Property taxes become "delinquent." As a result, penalties and interest begin to be added to the amount of tax otherwise due.

The following is a comparison of the amounts due at each step along the way from the date of initial billing through the end of one full year. (This example is based upon a property with an assessed value of \$100,000 without homestead exemption that is located inside the City Limits with a total combined millage rate of 22.085 as in the 2004 Tax Year. Interest is calculated at the rate of 5% for the months of June through October.)

Month	Amount Due	Increased cost of Delaying Payment
November	\$2,120.16	\$0.00
December	\$2,142.24	\$22.08
January	\$2,164.24	\$44.08
February	\$2,186.41	\$66.25
March	\$2,208.50	\$88.34
April	\$2,276.76	\$156.60
May (Pre adv.)	\$2,281.76	\$161.60
May (Post adv)	\$2,405.49	\$285.33
June - August	\$2,532.02	\$411.86
Sept to Nov.	\$2,608.55	\$488.39

Thus, as a result of the combined affects of lost discounts plus added penalties and interest, **a taxpayer who chooses to pay his or her Real Property Taxes late rather than current could owe as much as 23% more at the end of one year than they did when those taxes first became payable on November first.**

Mrs. Maloy said, "It is hard to imagine how any taxpayer could be better off by owing up to 23% more at the end of one year than he or she did at its beginning." Further, she noted that, "A taxpayer who has difficulty coming up with the entire amount that they owe in a single lump sum may be better served by signing up for the Quarterly Installment Payment plan. This plan allows taxpayers to meet their obligation with four smaller payments while avoiding the loss of the discount or the imposition of penalties and interest."

"Making Taxing Situations Easier"