



MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

THE TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY

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Treasurer Michael Baumgartner Authorizes Extension of Spring Property Tax Deadline to August 1st for those Facing Financial Hardship from Governor's Extension of the Moratorium on Residential Evictions

Spokane County, WA – Treasurer Michael Baumgartner announced today that he will exercise authority provided under state law to authorize an additional property tax deadline extension from June 15th to August 1st for those experiencing financial hardship related to the Governor's recent proclamation extending a moratorium on residential evictions. The extension only applies to Spokane County properties directly impacted by the Governor's proclamation and requires submission of a declaration certifying financial hardship.

The Spokane County Treasurer's Office previously authorized the longest extension of spring property tax payments of counties in Washington State from April 30th to June 15th to provide relief to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The June 15th extension applies to all first half 2020 real and personal property tax payments except for mortgage loan service providers which aggregate escrow accounts on behalf of individual taxpayers.

Today's additional extension aligns the property tax deadline for landlords, property managers and property owners unable to collect rent payments or enter eviction proceedings with the Governor's eviction moratorium extension.

"It is only right that if Government has placed a moratorium on landlords' ability to collect rent payments or pursue evictions that it also provides some relief from their property tax obligations." Said Michael Baumgartner, Treasurer of Spokane County "This extension provides landlords more time to pay their tax bill for rental properties impacted by the Governor's moratorium."

The Governor in proclamation 20-19.2 extended a moratorium on a variety of legal actions related to residential evictions, notices to vacate and rent collection amongst other considerations through August 1st.

"We want to help everyone who is facing financial hardship from the government shutdown – that's why I granted the longest tax extension in the state. If a landlord cannot enforce their lease and rental agreement terms, it is unreasonable for Government to provide no tax relief on those same properties." Added Baumgartner.

Spokane County property owners seeking the August 1st extension for rental properties must submit a declaration certifying inability to pay due to a lack of rent payments or related hardship resulting from the extension of the Governor's proclamation. A template declaration is available at www.spokanecounty.org/treasurer and may be returned by regular mail or email to treasurer@spokanecounty.org.

Others having problems paying property taxes are encouraged to contact the Treasurer's Office to discuss partial payments or other potential assistance programs.

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