



January 19, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### 2016 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2017

Allison Nathan Getz, Jefferson County Tax Assessor-Collector, reminds citizens of Jefferson County that 2016 property tax payments must be paid by Tuesday, January 31, 2017 to avoid penalty and interest charges.

Property tax payments may be made in person at:

- 1) Jefferson County Courthouse, 1149 Pearl, Beaumont;
- 2) Jefferson County Sub-Courthouse, 525 Lakeshore Drive, Port Arthur; or
- 3) Mid County Tax Office, 4605 Jerry Ware Drive, Beaumont (near the Airport).

All three (3) locations will remain open until 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

2016 payments by mail must have a Post Office cancellation mark on or before January 31, 2017 to avoid penalty and interest charges. The cancellation mark must be affixed by the Post Office and not a metered postmark. Payments by mail may be sent to Jefferson County Tax Office, P. O. Box 2112, Beaumont, TX 77704.

Beginning February 1st, a penalty and interest of 7% will be applied to unpaid tax balances. An additional 2% penalty and interest will be added each month until the end of June. On July 1, a penalty and interest totaling 18% will be applied, plus a 20% addition of collection fees. Finally, interest of 1% per month will accrue from that time on.

“Jefferson County has an excellent payment rate,” Allison said. “We typically collect over 98% of the total tax roll on a current basis. We appreciate the effort our community makes.”

“We hope this reminder will help people remember to not overlook taking care of a payment they fully intended to make. Please call our office if you are having difficulty meeting your tax obligation. There are special provisions for payment for citizens with age homestead or disability exemptions. The Tax Office deputies will be more than happy to give information on options that are available under the State Property Tax Code.”

Taxes may be paid in cash, check, or credit/debit card in person. Telephone payments may be made by calling 1-866-549-1010 and use **Bureau Code: 2228888**. Also, credit card payments or e-check payments may be made online at [www.certifiedpayments.net](http://www.certifiedpayments.net) (**Bureau Code: 2228888**) and follow the instructions on the screen. A convenience fee of 2.4% on credit card payments and a \$1.50 fee on e-check payments will occur.

For questions, taxpayers may call the County Tax Office at 835-8516.

**Allison will be available to answer any questions from the media by calling 835-8714.**