



Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar

# News Release

Communications Division

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2020

### Tax office temporarily suspends legal actions

AUSTIN – The Travis County Tax Office will temporarily stop taking any new legal action against those with delinquent property taxes. However, state penalties and interest continues to accrue on what delinquent taxpayers owe.

"We realize COVID-19 has upended everyone's life," said Bruce Elfant, Travis County's tax assessor-collector. "This is a time of extreme financial uncertainty, and we understand that filing delinquent tax lawsuits and conducting foreclosure sales would place an even bigger burden on these county residents so we are temporarily suspending our collection efforts."

Texas state law does not allow tax assessor-collectors to waive penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes. Be aware that unless the state provides a waiver, penalties and interest continues to accrue on delinquent payments. For that reason, Elfant encourages anyone who can to continue making their property tax payments.

"Don't forget paying your property taxes is how we keep the county, cities, schools, hospitals and emergency personnel operating," Elfant said.

If you have a payment plan for your property taxes, but need to renegotiate the terms or are in need of setting up a payment plan, call (512) 854-9473 or email [TaxOffice@TravisCountyTX.gov](mailto:TaxOffice@TravisCountyTX.gov). You may also contact us if you need to learn more about available programs, such as homesteads property tax deferrals for those age 65 and older, and for disabled persons and veterans.

The **Travis County Tax Office** annually collects more than \$4 billion in local property taxes for 132 local government entities and \$4 million in fines and fees for Justice of the Peace and County Courts at Law. The office registers and titles almost 1 million vehicles, registers over 700,000 voters, and supports elections for 201 local government entities. The Tax Office operates five locations in Travis County and many services are available online.