



TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

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Equal Opportunity Employer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROPERTY TAX POSTPONEMENT PROGRAM OFFERS**  
**SENIOR AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE PAYING**  
**PROPERTY TAXES**

**MERCED** – Merced County Treasurer-Tax Collector Karen Adams would like to remind disabled and senior Merced County residents of the Property Tax Postponement (PTP) program, which is designed to assist eligible residents in paying their property taxes. PTP is a program offered by the State Controller's Office to help low income, senior, blind and disabled citizens ease the hardship of property taxes.

*“For many seniors or disabled homeowners with low or fixed income, paying their property taxes can create a tremendous financial hardship,” commented Ms. Adams. “Often, the burden of paying the property taxes can be the difference between continued ownership, and selling or losing their home through property tax default.”*

The PTP program provides many benefits including:

- ◆ Allows some participants to keep their home by deferring their property taxes;
- ◆ Allows claimants to have more disposable income;
- ◆ Eliminates worry of paying property taxes;
- ◆ Pays delinquent taxes (in some cases);
- ◆ Provides low interest rate loan to applicants;
- ◆ Reduces county's property tax default rate;
- ◆ Increases county's property tax collection rate; and
- ◆ Reduces demand for some county social services.

To qualify for the program, homeowners must be at least 62 years old, blind, or disabled, and:

- ◆ live in the home on December 31;
- ◆ have at least 20% equity in the home; and
- ◆ have a household income of less than \$31,500.

To apply, simply complete and return the PTP application to the State Controller's Office. **The filing period for PTP is May 15 through December 10 of each year.** Applications and information are available by calling the Merced County Tax Collector at (209) 385-7592 or visiting the <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/taxcoll/>

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*For more information on Merced County, please visit <http://www.co.merced.ca.us>*