

# BENTON COUNTY

## IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION 2007-08 TAX YEAR

### TIMELY PAYMENT

November 15, 2007 is the payment due date. Be sure to mail your payments early enough to be postmarked on or before the due date.

If the postmark is after the due date, any discount allowable for timely payment will be lost, and interest will accumulate on the past due portion.

### LOCK BOX SERVICES

Benton County will be using an automated payment processing service this year. As a result, your payment may be deducted from your bank account faster than it has been in the past.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

#### ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Credit card and E-Check payments may be made online through a third party vendor. A convenience fee will be charged by the vendor for the online payment service. Payment instructions, fee schedules, and vendor information are available on the county website:

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/finance/taxpayments.php>

Please read the back of the tax statement for payment instructions.

#### TAXES PAID BY MORTGAGE COMPANIES

The law requires that a tax statement be mailed to all property owners. If your mortgage company pays your taxes, this statement is for your information only.

#### WHERE TO PAY TAXES IN PERSON:

Taxes can be paid at the Benton County Tax Collection Office located at:

110 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333

For your convenience, we have made arrangements with local financial institutions to collect 2007-08 taxes through November 15, 2007.

The following are authorized collectors:

- Citizens Bank, all branches in Benton County
- Bank of America, all branches in Benton County
- Sterling Savings Bank in Monroe
- OSU Federal Credit Union (note: if you do not have an account with the Credit Union, you must pay in cash)

### TAX DISTRICT DETAIL

Tax district detail is located on the front of the tax statement. This will show the taxing district and the amount of your tax that goes to each district.

### CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS

A correct mailing address is essential for receiving a tax statement in a timely manner. If you have moved or made any address changes, please notify the Assessment Office in writing at:

205 NW 5<sup>th</sup>  
Corvallis, OR 97330

### REMINDER NOTICES

The County **does not** send reminder notices for the February 15 and May 15 trimester payments. If you are paying in thirds, please mark your calendar for the due dates.

### APPEAL RIGHTS:

Please see the back of the tax statement for appeal instructions. The property tax statement also serves as your Notice of Value Change.

### QUESTIONS?

Office hours are:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For questions regarding your **property value**, call the Assessment Office at (541) 766-6855.

For questions regarding your **taxes**, call the Property Tax Office at (541) 766-6808.

### SENIOR AND DISABLED CITIZENS PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL

Oregon homeowners, age 62 or older may delay paying property taxes on their residence. Taxes plus interest of 6% and lien recording fees must be paid to the State of Oregon when owner sells the property, moves, dies, or the property changes ownership. To qualify for the 2008-09 tax year, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- File an application on or before April 15
- Be 62 years or older by April 15 of the year in which you file
- Have a recorded deed or be buying the property on contract
- Live on the property, unless your health requires you to live elsewhere
- Total household income must be less than \$37,500 for 2007

There is a similar program for disabled homeowners who are younger than 62 and received federal Social Security Disability benefits for the previous year.

# BENTON COUNTY

## IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION 2007-2008 TAX YEAR

### VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

If you are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran, you may be entitled to exempt a portion of your homestead's assessed value from property taxes. If the disability is non-service connected, the amount of the exemption is \$15,914. It is \$19,096 if the disability is service connected. To qualify for the 2008-09 tax year, you must:

- File an application on or before April 1
- Be a war veteran who is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as 40% or more disabled or be certified each year by a licensed physician as being 40% or more disabled, **OR**,
- Be a war veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried, **AND**,
- Own and live on the property.

New forms for both Senior/Disabled Citizens and Veterans Exemption will be available at the Assessment Office after January 2, 2008.

Please contact the Assessment Office at (541) 766-6855 for additional information.

### OREGON ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER EXEMPTION

For the 2008-09 tax year, the exemption will be \$65,564 of the assessed value for a qualified active-service member's home. Active-duty soldiers may file for this exemption every year for which they qualify.

This is not the same exemption as the "Veteran's or Surviving Spouse's Property Tax Exemption." For further information, please contact the Assessment Office at (541) 766-6855 or visit the Department of Revenue for forms and instructions [www.oregon.gov/dor](http://www.oregon.gov/dor).

### CHANGES IN ASSESSED VALUE OR VOTER APPROVED MONEY MEASURES AFFECT TAXES

Under the Oregon property tax system, assessed value and tax amounts will typically increase about 3 percent each year. New construction or additions to current property can also change your taxes. For properties located in districts where voters have approved new levies, taxes may increase. Likewise, if levies expire, taxes could decrease.

New money measures approved in Benton County for 2007-08 and the estimated or actual tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value.

#### Levy

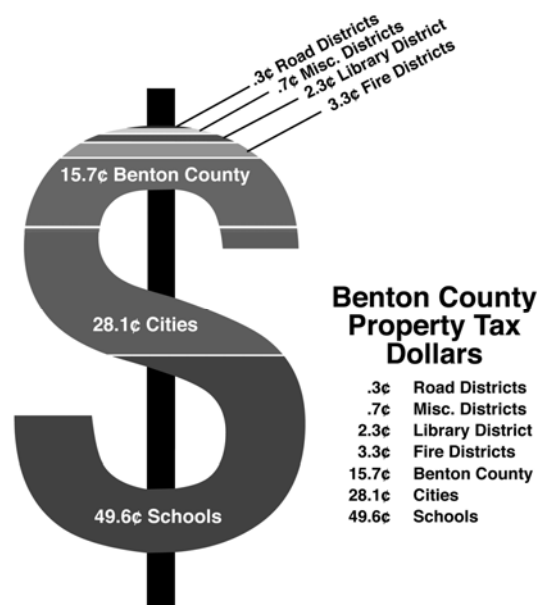
Corvallis School District	\$1.50
Greater Albany School District	\$1.28
North Albany Rural Fire District	\$0.91
Ridgewood Road District	\$3.37

### DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES:

Benton County assesses property and collects property taxes for over 50 taxing districts including cities, schools and community colleges, road, fire and other special purpose districts. Only a portion of property taxes imposed and collected by the county support Benton County government operations (See Chart 1).

**TOTAL IMPOSED TAXES IN 2007 IS \$93,146,582**

**Chart 1:** Distribution of property taxes imposed (billed to taxpayers) for 2007 by taxing district type.



After subtraction of delinquencies and discounts, Benton County will net approximately \$13.8 million in property taxes to support county government services in the first year of the 2007-09 biennium budget of \$150,339,312 (See Chart 2)

**Chart 2:** Distribution of property taxes to Benton County government services in the 2007-09 adopted biennium budget.

