

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County Tax Bills Mailing This Week

Missoula County tax bills will be mailed later this week to all area residents and are already available online at missoulataxes.us. Instructions to access online services are outlined below. Taxes are due on or before 5 p.m. on Nov. 30, 2017.

Tax payments are currently being accepted and online payments may be made via credit card, debit card or electronic check. Service fees apply when paying online.

Taxes can be paid:

- By mail: 200 West Broadway, Missoula MT, 59803.
- Online payment: missoulataxes.us.
- In-person: Missoula County Courthouse Annex.
- Courthouse drop box: located within the west parking lot of the Courthouse.

To access tax bills online:

- Visit: missoulataxes.us.
 - Searches can be completed by last name, property address, geo code or taxpayer ID.
 - After the query has run, click "Detail" within the middle of the screen to show the taxing breakdown.
 - Electronic versions of the bill will be available in November and can be saved or printed until October, 2018.

A screenshot of the Missoula County iTax website. The page has a blue header with the Missoula County seal and the text "Missoula County iTax". Below the header, there is a "Shopping Cart: 0 items (\$0.00)" and a "Help" button. A message states: "To ensure the correct parcel is paid, the taxpayer ID is the recommended search method. If using Internet Explorer 11 be sure the Compatibility View is checked." Below this, it says "(Use only ONE search filed at a time)". There are input fields for "Taxpayer ID:", "Owner Name:" (with an example "JONES STEVE or JONES"), "Property Address:" (with sub-fields for "Number", "Street Name", and "City"), and "Geo Code:" (with an example "04-1887-01-2-08-20-0000"). There are "Search" and "Clear Form" buttons. A note at the bottom says: "Note: The accuracy of this data is not guaranteed. Property Tax data was last updated 10/20/2017 11:00 AM. You are visitor # 1700786". At the very bottom, there is contact information for Missoula County and the Tyler Technologies logo.

Many residents are likely to see an increase in their property taxes due to increases in taxable value determined by the reappraisal process administered by the Montana Department of Revenue. In any given year, property tax payers see changes to their property tax bills for one of four reasons: local taxing jurisdictions such as schools and local governments increase or decrease the number of mills levied; newly taxable property from construction is added to the tax base; voter-approved bonds are included which require mill levies to pay debt service on those bonds; and the taxable value of real property increases as captured in the reappraisal cycle. Missoula County saw increases in newly taxable property and an overall increase in the taxable value of properties throughout the county.

The Missoula County Clerk and Treasurer's Office changed the methodology in which bills are printed this year. Instead of sending a data file to the printer to be recreated, bills are now the actual images maintained on our software. While this shift generated cost savings and provides for more reliable record-keeping, it caused a slight delay for the system to be tested resulting in a slight delay in the mailing of tax bills this year.

In an effort to ensure clarity for property tax payers, the Clerk and Treasurer's Office will be holding a public meeting in the coming months seeking comment regarding the type of information the public would like included on their tax bill as well as the formatting of the tax bill.

Additional information can be found online at

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/administration/clerk-treasurer/treasurer/property-taxes>.

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