

6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR 2017 TAX BILL

1

The Tax Commissioner's office is solely responsible for billing and collecting taxes. The Board of Assessors is a separate entity that determines property values.



2

Millage rates are set by the Board of Commissioners (BOC), Board of Education, the state and cities. One "mill" equals \$1.00 of property taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation.



3

Current approved homestead exemptions reduce total taxes due. That's money saved! (Check the Exemption section of your bill.)



4

County taxes are levied by the BOC to fund most County operations and services. The Board of Education sets their own tax rate. The Tax Commissioner collects city taxes on behalf of some cities, while others collect their own property taxes.



5

Also included are fees and assessments set by the BOC and cities. These include fees for trash pick-up, stormwater services, street lights and speed tables.



6

If you sold your property after January 1, you and the new owner will both receive a tax bill in August. Documents signed at closing determine who is responsible for the taxes.



How to Reduce Your Tax Bill

File for a Homestead Exemption:

There are several homestead exemptions available to Gwinnett County homeowners. To find out more about eligibility requirements and benefits, visit our website or contact the Property Tax Department.

It is the responsibility of each homeowner to make timely application for homestead exemption. The homestead application deadline is **April 1** of the tax year for which application is being made. Apply online at our website or request an application by contacting the Property Tax Department.

The same application can be used for all exemptions offered. Supporting documentation may be required. We recommend using certified mail when mailing the application. The signed certified signature card, along with a postmark on or before the due date, will serve as proof of timely application.

File for Senior and Disabled Exemptions:

Gwinnett County offers several exemptions for seniors and the disabled. Two of the most beneficial are the Regular School Exemption (S3) and the Senior/Disabled School Exemption (L5A).

S3: You must be 62 years of age as of January 1 of the application year and meet income requirements. Income of both the claimant and spouse is considered.

L5A: You must be 65 years of age or 100% permanently disabled as of January 1 of the application year and meet income requirements. Income of both the claimant and spouse is considered.

File a Tax Return with the Board of Assessors:

April 1 of each year is the deadline to file a tax return. If you disagree with the value placed on your property for tax purposes, it is your right to file an *ad valorem* property tax return with the Board of Assessors to declare your opinion of value.

Filing a tax return for real property is an optional step because every property is issued a Notice of Current Assessment each year regardless of whether a tax return is filed. Tax returns for personal property are still required.

Watch for your Notice of Current Assessment:

Your Notice of Current Assessment will state the Board of Assessors' value for your property. If you disagree with the value, you may submit an appeal to the Board of Assessors within 45 days of the date of notice. Notices are mailed in the spring of each year.

Ways to Pay

- Pay online at GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com by check, credit card or debit card or at a tag office kiosk by credit or debit card.
 - Pay by check for free.
 - Pay by debit card for \$3.95.
 - Pay by credit card for a 2.29% fee.
- Pay by check using drop boxes accessible 24 hours a day at all Gwinnett tag offices. Make checks out to 'Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner.'
- Mail payments to the Tax Commissioner at P.O. Box 372, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.
- Pay in person during regular business hours at all Tax Commissioner offices. Cash, checks, credit and debit cards accepted. Service fees apply to credit and debit cards.
- You may make as many payments as necessary as long as the balance is paid in full by the due date.

7/17/2017

Contact Information

Tax Commissioner's Office: GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com

Property Tax 770-822-8800; Tax@GwinnettCounty.com

Motor Vehicle 770-822-8818; Tag@GwinnettCounty.com

- Bills, collects and disburses *ad valorem* taxes, fees and special assessments
- Administers homestead exemptions
- Manages motor vehicle titling and registration as tag agent for the state

Board of Assessors: Gwinnett-Assessor.com

Real Property 770-822-7200; Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com

Personal Property 770-822-7220; Personal.Property@GwinnettCounty.com

- Assesses all property values within the county
- Issues annual Notice of Current Assessment to all taxpayers
- Receives and reviews all appeals filed
- Receives Property Tax Returns and approves exemptions

Board of Commissioners and Board of Education

County Millage Rates 770-822-7000 GwinnettCounty.com

School Millage Rates 678-301-6200 Gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Solid Waste Fees: GwinnettCounty.com

770-822-7141; GCSolidWaste@GwinnettCounty.com

- Charged by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners in accordance with the Solid Waste Ordinance for trash pick-up.
- \$19.16 per month; 2017 fees are for the 2018 calendar year.

Stormwater Utility: GwinnettStormwater.com

678-376-7193; SWService@GwinnettCounty.com

- For replacing publicly-owned stormwater pipes, reducing flooding, fulfilling regulatory requirements and reducing pollution carried by stormwater to waterways.
- Established rate is \$2.46/100 square feet of impervious surface.

Street Lights and Speed Tables

- Traffic Engineering and Planning - 770-822-7400

City Stormwater, Sanitation and Streetlight Fees

The Tax Commissioner's office also collects fees for separate city-managed utilities for Dacula, Lilburn, Peachtree Corners, Snellville and Sugar Hill.

- Dacula - 770-963-7451 • DaculaGA.gov
- Lilburn - 770-921-2210 • CityofLilburn.com
- Peachtree Corners - 678-691-1200 • PeachtreeCornersGa.gov
- Snellville - 770-985-3524 • Snellville.org
- Sugar Hill - 770-945-6716 • CityofSugarHill.com

City Taxes

The Tax Commissioner collects city taxes for Berkeley Lake, Dacula, Grayson, Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Peachtree Corners, Snellville and Sugar Hill. Property owners residing in these cities' limits who apply for a County homestead exemption will also receive applicable city exemptions to which they may be entitled. For information on taxes in other Gwinnett cities, contact that city's tax department.

Property Bought or Sold

When a property or business is sold after January 1 of the tax year, a tax bill is sent to both the owner as of January 1 and the new owner. The entire tax liability accrues on the first day of the year, and taxes are due and payable in full on the due date listed on the notice. Taxes are not prorated by the Tax Commissioner's office.

If you owned property on January 1 of the tax year, you are responsible for all of the taxes. If you sold the property since that date and the taxes are not paid, you can be named on the tax lien. If you sold the property and transferred the tax liability to another party through closing papers or a contract, you have 90 days after the tax due date to provide those documents to the Tax Commissioner's office. Once received, any lien for delinquent taxes will be filed in the name of whoever owns the property on the tax due date.

For locations and directions, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.