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Property Tax Postponement - Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ's for Property Tax Postponement (PTP)

1. Is it true the legislature passed a bill that suspended the PTP program and prohibited the State Controller from accepting claims for postponement of property taxes?

Yes. Senate Bill X3 8 (Chapter 4, Statutes of 2009), indefinitely suspended the Property Tax Deferral Program effective February 20, 2009. Unfortunately, due to the legislation suspending the program, the Controller's Office is no longer able to assist qualifying homeowners with property tax deferrals.

2. Did the Controller's Office support the legislation that suspended the PTP program?

The Controller opposed the legislation that suspended the PTP program. Controller Chiang remains committed to continued efforts to restore this very worthwhile program. The Controller recognizes that the PTP program is a much needed benefit for many senior, blind, or disabled homeowners that need property tax assistance so that they can afford to remain in their homes.

3. Will the PTP program remain suspended for all of 2009-2010?

We are still hopeful that the suspension is not permanent; however, it appears unlikely that the Legislature will act to reinstate the PTP program for the 2009-10 fiscal year. However, the Controller's Office will continue to work toward an alternative acceptable to the Legislature and the Governor's Office.

4. Are there any alternative programs to help pay my property taxes?

Unfortunately, we are not aware of another program similar to Property Tax Postponement at this time. However, you may contact your county Tax Collector's Office to discuss any options they may be able to provide in lieu of postponement through the State. To locate your Tax Collector's Office, please click on this link: <http://www.ca.gov/About/Government/Local/counties.html>.

5. Am I required to pay back my PTP account due to the suspension of the program?

No. Your property tax deferrals are not due and payable unless one of the following occurs:

- a. You move, sell, or convey title to your home;
- b. You die leaving no spouse, registered domestic partner, or other qualified individual that resides in the home; or,
- c. You allow a senior lien to become delinquent

6. Will my PTP account continue to accrue interest even though the program is suspended?

Yes. Interest continues to accrue on PTP accounts until all postponed taxes plus interest are repaid to the State.

7. Will the program suspension cause an increase in the interest rates for my previous PTP loans?

No. The program suspension will have no effect on the interest rate charged on the PTP loans you obtained in prior years.

8. Can I contact my legislator in the Assembly or State Senate to express my concerns about the program suspension?

You can contact your California State Senator and Assembly Member to express your concerns regarding the suspension of the PTP program. To locate your local representative, you may use this link: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

9. If I am an existing claimant, does the program suspension affect me also?

Yes. The legislation prohibits the State Controller's Office from accepting any applications for postponement as of February 20, 2009. Unfortunately, even if SCO has postponed your property taxes in the past, we are not able to assist you with paying your property taxes unless the law is amended.

10. Are the certificates that I received still valid?

No. Certificates issued in the fiscal year 2008-09 were valid until June 30, 2009.

11. When are property tax installments due?

The County Tax Collector's Office sends property tax bills to homeowners, normally by November 1st each year. The first installment payment is due on December 10th, and the second installment is due April 10th.

12. Will I be responsible for making the next payment on my property taxes?

Yes. The homeowner of record is responsible for the payment of property taxes. To avoid accumulating delinquency penalties, you should make your payment before the installment payment due dates (December 10th and April 10th).

13. If I want to make a payment on my PTP account, where do I send it?

Make your check or money order payable to the California State Treasurer and mail it to the address shown below. Please include your name and property address on the check or money order, and on any accompanying documents, to ensure proper credit. Note that partial or full repayments are accepted at any time, even if not required (See #5 above).

State Controller's Office
Division of Accounting and Reporting
Property Tax Postponement Program
P. O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5880

14. How can I stay informed about the status of the PTP program?

You may periodically visit our website at www.sco.ca.gov for the most current information about the PTP program. To reach the Property Tax Postponement Program by telephone, dial our toll free line @ 1-800-952-5661. Our office will also advise all County Tax Collectors if the program is reinstated.

15. How do I get an account statement?

The State Controller's Office provides you with an account statement each year. However, you may obtain an account statement at any time by calling (800) 952-5661 or (916) 327-5587, or by writing to the State Controller's Office at the following address:

State Controller's Office
Division of Accounting and Reporting
Property Tax Postponement Program
P. O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5880

or by e-mail to postponement@sco.ca.gov.

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