

April 7, 2020

Regular Meeting

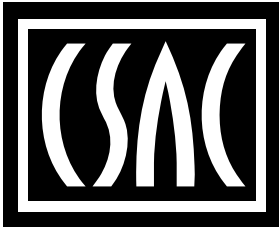
Item # 7a

COVID-19 Coronavirus

Update

CSAC Statement on Property Tax

Presentation



California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.327.7500 Facsimile 916.441-5507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2020

Contact: Sara Floor, Communications Manager
916-327-7500, ext. 516; email: sfloor@counties.org

Joint CSAC / CACTTC Statement on COVID-19 and the April 10 Property Tax Deadline

SACRAMENTO – *California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors issue the following statement regarding the COVID-19 crisis and the April 10th property tax deadline.*

“Taking care of Californians is our top priority, and counties, cities, and schools are burning through local reserves to do so. Any delay in payments beyond the April 10 property tax deadline, for individuals or businesses that can pay, will tip local governments into insolvency at a time when our residents need us the most.

Counties will use all existing authority to cancel penalties and other charges for homeowners, small businesses, and other property owners that are unable to pay their property taxes due to circumstances caused by COVID-19 on a case-by-case basis. However, property owners who can pay or that haven’t been directly affected by COVID-19, including international corporations and out-of-state landlords, still need to pay on time to keep critical government services running. Assisting taxpayers in this way is not new to Tax Collectors, who most recently worked to help those who were affected by the Camp and Woolsey fires.

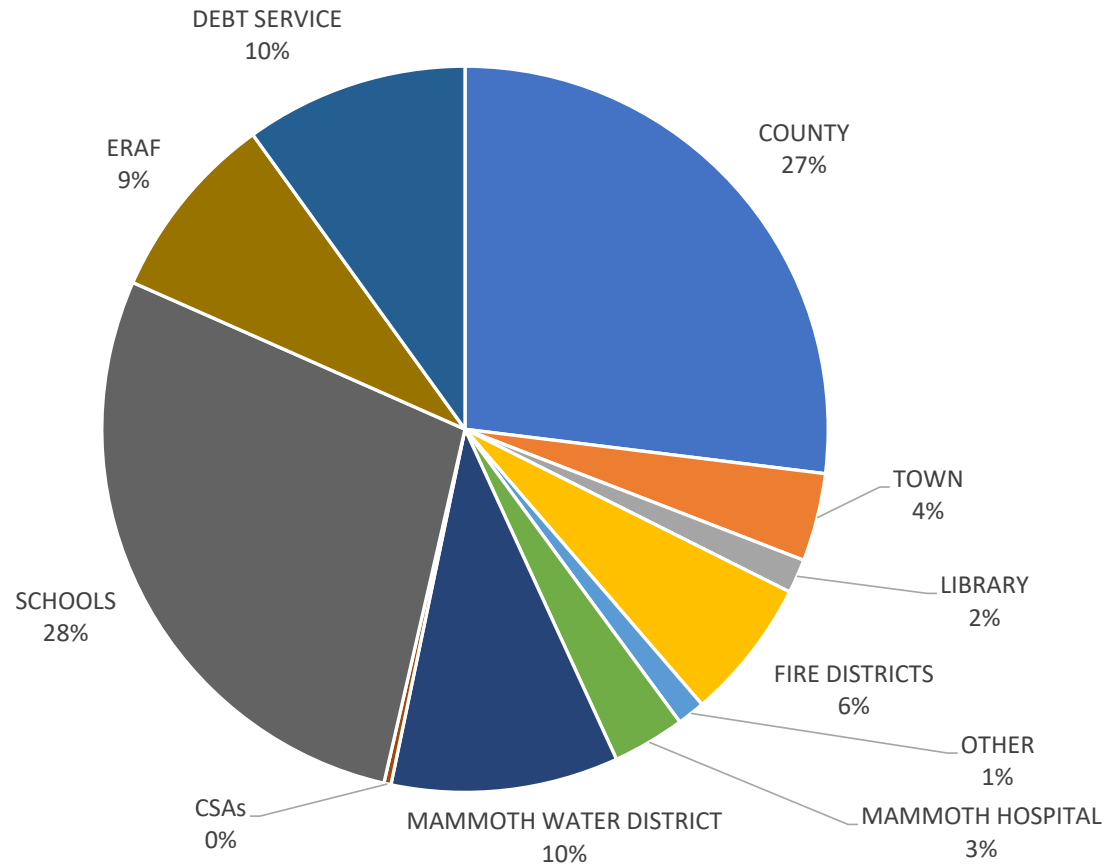
Property taxes only go to local governments—schools, counties, cities and special districts—not to the state or federal government, and directly fund education, health care, hospitals, welfare services, fire protection, and homelessness efforts, to name a few.

Delaying the April 10 property tax payment would take tens of billions of dollars away from local government, create cash flow problems, and cause some to default on their loans, which would have significant long-term effects on all local agencies in California.”

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is the voice of California’s 58 counties at the state and federal level.

###

Annual Distribution of Property Tax Payments



Property Tax Waiver of Penalties

DECEMBER 10th and APRIL 10th PAYMENT DELINQUENCY DATES POSTPONED ONLY IF:

1. By California State Legislature
2. Tax Collector office closed by resolution or ordinance of the Board (usually for holiday)

WAIVERS GRANTED IF ALL CONDITIONS MET:

1. Due to reasonable cause beyond taxpayer control
2. Taxpayer exercised ordinary due care
3. Not the result of taxpayer neglect

Must pay all taxes, penalties, interest and costs before requesting a waiver

EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES WAIVED

- Incapacitating injury or illness and inability for family member to make payment
- Death of taxpayer and not practical for heirs to make payment
- Severe inclement weather prevents payment (PSPS event)
- Disaster such as fire, flood, earthquake or civic unrest that prevents taxpayer from making timely payment

EXAMPLE OF CIRCUMSTANCES NOT WAIVED

- Lack of funds or inability to pay
- Bounced check
- Failure to receive a tax bill or statement
- Financial hardships
- History of prompt payments

WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Emergency legislation allowing COVID-19 hardships if passed retroactively
- Consider waiver requests on a case by case basis
- No promise or representation that waivers will be granted

DON'T PRESUME A WAIVER WILL BE GRANTED

MAKE PAYMENT IF ABLE