

# MESSAGE FROM TREASURER ROYCE T. FLORA

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As your Treasurer and a fellow homeowner, I am acutely aware of the circumstances that lead to receiving a delinquent notice. While the Treasurer's Office has no authority on the setting of your taxes, I feel it is my duty to focus on customer service initiatives that strive to make paying property taxes effortless and advocate for legislative changes designed to offer assistance to struggling homeowners. My ultimate goal: do whatever I can within the bounds of my statutory authority to keep taxpayers from losing their homes. I want to share critical information on recent developments on these two subjects in addition to other taxpayer services offered by the Treasurer's Office.

## **Treasurer Taxpayer Advocacy**

Recent legislation I introduced and helped pass has empowered homeowners with tax liens to keep their homes. These are significant changes and have already had a tremendous positive impact on struggling taxpayers.

## **Pay Only the Oldest Lien to Avoid Foreclosure**

I sponsored legislation in 2015 that eliminated the combining of each newly incurred tax lien into one lump sum amount. Homeowners who faced the prospect of foreclosure were required to pay this cumulative amount owed on all prior liens to halt foreclosure proceedings. Starting with the 2014 Tax Year, parcels with no prior year liens are no longer required to be paid cumulatively to stop the foreclosure process. Homeowners that are eligible under this new law now have the right to pay only the oldest individual lien and accrued interest to prevent foreclosure.

## **Outstanding Tax Lien Interest Rates Dropped An Average of 85%**

Until recently all tax liens carried a statutory interest rate of 16%. In 2015, legislation was passed that changed the interest rate owed on tax liens from 16% to the bid rate paid by the investor at auction. Based on the 2016 tax lien sale, the average bid rate was 2.4%. This represents an 85% decrease on the average interest amount owed by property owners with outstanding tax liens.

I encourage anyone with a tax lien to visit <http://treasurer.maricopa.gov/advocacy> for more detailed information on the above legislative changes.

## **Treasurer Taxpayer Services**

### **eNotices**

I want to inform you about our newest service, **eNoticesOnline.com**, which takes the hassle out of paying property taxes. Our Office has partnered with the Assessor's Office and a number of neighboring counties within Arizona to provide a one-stop solution to view all your tax bills and notices. The service includes the added benefit of receiving email reminders on upcoming due dates and important updates that directly affect your property taxes. Please see the enclosed **eNotices** flyer for instructions on creating your account. Below are some of the other exceptional services we already offer that you may not know about.

### **View and Print Your Bill Online**

Log on to the Treasurer's website to view or print your tax bill. Get informed. Visit [treasurer.maricopa.gov](http://treasurer.maricopa.gov) to see a breakdown of your property tax bill and the jurisdictions you support.

### **Pay Your Property Tax at any Arizona Chase Bank**

The Maricopa County Treasurer has partnered with Chase bank to make paying your taxes more convenient. You can bring your property tax stub to any Arizona Chase bank and pay your property taxes there.

As always, we are here to serve you and if you require assistance, do not hesitate to call (602) 506-8511 to speak with a customer service representative.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Royce T. Flora". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Royce T. Flora, Maricopa County Treasurer