



Royce T. Flora
Treasurer



Maricopa County Treasurer's Office

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Let me start by thanking you, the taxpayer, for allowing me to serve you these past several years.

The American Dream has been from the founding days of this Republic: Life, Liberty and Property. I have always been committed to the taxpayers of Maricopa County to do all I can to make sure taxes are low and affordable. I am extremely concerned about the American Dream being lost as a result of rising property taxes. One of my goals working with the legislature is to move low income seniors from a Class 3 to a Class 6. The Arizona legislature failed to pass the legislation 4 years in a row, in part due to Arizona Tax Research Association's (ATRA's) opposition as they continue to push for lower commercial property taxes and oppose lower residential taxes. By moving low income seniors to Class 6 this would lower their primary taxes by 50% and provide a Constitutional solution for this small group of seniors. As a result, according to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee the state general fund would actually benefit by \$2.7 Million each year. It's A WIN, WIN, WIN Deal.

I have been committed to doing all I can to keep all homeowners in their homes and reduce the tax burden on them. I have worked on policy to protect property rights, including a bill to prevent equity theft of one's home when government forecloses on one's home, making sure the equity (their life savings) goes back to the homeowner and is not kept by government. Another effort was a Citizens Initiative called the American Dream Act AZ that would eliminate primary property tax for the 65 and older elderly, to ensure they actually own their home without fear of foreclosure from delinquent taxes. Senior citizens pay taxes all of their life, it seems only reasonable that after 65 they can actually own their home by eliminating ALL primary taxes on their personal home.

This year I respectfully and urgently requested that the Governor of the great State of Arizona and our legislature, help taxpayers during these difficult times by calling a Special Session of the State Legislature in order to address tax issues, including at no cost extending the deadline to pay the second half of 2019 property taxes to at least June 1, 2020. The sad and disappointing thing is people are dying, businesses shutting down, wages lost, families straining to put food on their table and yet we couldn't get a Special Session to offer a little relief to our citizens during this critical time.

Last year I saw an injustice that was happening to Mr. James Boerner, a disabled veteran whose home was illegally put up for auction, over a \$221 delinquent tax. He tried to pay the delinquent tax. Mr. Boerner had until June 30th to pay; the Sheriff sold his home June 20th. The Sheriff illegally seized Mr. Boerner's \$36,000 home for a \$221 delinquent tax, putting Mr. Boerner in jeopardy of being homeless. If government was unwilling to correct it, I was. After a hard-fought legal battle, Mr. Boerner had his home restored to him. Even if I had to pay the predator's asking price of \$24,000 out of my personal savings, Mr. Boerner was going to get his home back.

Investment Earnings Remain Strong

Since taking office in January of 2017 the Treasurer's Office has increased the earnings from our Portfolio Investments from \$18 Million to just under \$100 Million in earnings thus benefiting the schools and the county by tens of millions of dollars. This year, despite the economic and social devastation of the COVID-19 virus, the Treasurer's investment earnings still topped \$90 Million. This enabled the Treasurer's Office to start a program which assisted Maricopa County school districts with the refinancing of their debt. This initiative saved numerous school districts significant monies by reducing their debt service costs. Our Office continues to do an excellent job of managing the taxpayers' money.

Get Updates Online, Pay Online, Go Paperless

One of my strategic plans is providing the taxpayers a method to pay property taxes both safely and conveniently, especially while we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we have made considerable changes to our Treasurer Online Payment Program (TOPP) to allow taxpayers to pay not only current taxes but submit payments on both delinquent tax years and years with tax liens. Skip the trip downtown and pay online.

eNoticesOnline.com takes the hassle out of remembering when your taxes are due. Our Office has joined hands with the Assessor's Office to provide a one-stop solution to view all your tax bills, information, and notices. Please see the enclosed **eNotices** flyer for instructions.

Prefer to Pay in Person? Pay Your Property Tax at any Full-Service Arizona Chase Bank

The Maricopa County Treasurer has partnered with Chase Bank to make paying your taxes more convenient. Bring your payment coupon to any full-service Arizona Chase Bank, even if you don't bank with Chase, and pay your property taxes there.

Sincerely,

Royce T. Flora