

Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office

April 2020 Newsletter



Dear Taxpayers:

The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office will close all office locations beginning **Friday, April 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. until further notice**. This action is in compliance with Governor Ron DeSantis' statewide executive order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services", to limit movements and personal interactions outside the home.

Safety for our employees and the public is at the center of our decision making and this measure allows us to better protect everyone from the spread of the virus.

To ensure the continuity of the 2020 tax roll and the availability of our online services during this public health crisis, many of our employees will now work remotely from home to support our strategic and operational priorities.

The 2020 tax roll process and its stability is vitally important to the Palm Beach County taxing authorities in order for them to receive their revenue later this year.

Over the past several years, the Property Appraiser Public Access (PAPA) website: www.pbcgov.org/PAPA has been upgraded to operate more easily and provide more online services, particularly for unprecedented events such as these.

As always, the PAPA website is open for business 24/7 and updated on a daily basis, as our appraisers continue to work on valuations for the 2020 tax roll, our clerks maintain deed transfers and additional key staff members oversee PAPA's website operations.

The public should contact our office by email at PAO@pbcgov.org with specific questions. Our staff will be monitoring this email during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many services the office carries out are available on PAPA such as: E filing for a homestead exemption, E filing a tangible personal property tax return, requesting a mailing address change associated with a property, and much more.

In addition, we have created a webpage on the PAPA website: 'Frequently Asked Questions'. This customer service portal is dedicated to answering taxpayer questions quickly, without having to email us.

Our office is in daily communication with Palm Beach County and State of Florida officials and as the situation evolves with any potential changes to our office operations, including the 2020 tax roll, filing deadlines and important notifications, we will keep the public informed and maintain

communication via the PAPA website: www.pbcgov.org/PAPA and our social media channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

In this month's newsletter, information about a deadline extension for filing a Tangible Personal Property tax return for Palm Beach County business owners, a reminder about renewal applications for the Limited Income Senior Citizen exemption (Persons age 65 and older) and some important information about Vote-by-Mail for the 2020 elections. Stay safe.

Respectfully,



Dorothy Jacks, CFA, AAS
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser



Vote-by-Mail for 2020 Elections

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a growing interest across the nation to expand Vote-by-Mail this year in order to keep poll workers and voters safe.

Vote-by-Mail refers to voting a ballot received by mail or picked up by or for a voter instead of going to the polls to vote during Early Voting or Election Day. Any registered voter can vote by mail. You can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for a specific election or for all elections through the next two General Elections. After two General Elections, you'll need to make the request again.

For more information on this, go to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections' website: <https://www.pbcelections.org/> or call them at 561.656.6208.

Tangible Personal Property Tax Return Filing Deadline Extended to May 18, 2020

To help Palm Beach County businesses who may be on a reduced work schedule, our office has granted an automatic 45-day extension to Palm Beach County business owners who file a Tangible Personal Property (TPP) tax return. The new deadline to file is **Monday, May 18, 2020**. TPP consists of assets used in a business such as furniture and equipment, and are valued at more than \$25,000. These are subject to ad valorem taxes.

Please note that while you are not required to submit a request for the extension, all TPP tax returns and supporting documentation must be submitted to our office by Monday, May 18, 2020.

You have three options to file your TPP tax return and submit supporting documents:

- E file at www.pbcgov.org/PAPA
- Complete the TPP tax return form online and email to mytpp@pbcbgov.org
- Complete the TPP tax return form online, print it out and mail to:
Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office, Tangible Personal Property Department, 5th Floor, 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Senior Exemption Renewal of Adjusted Household Income for Persons Age 65 and Older

Earlier this year, my office mailed out renewal applications for those senior citizens who qualified for the additional exemption for persons age 65 and older. The renewal form must be returned (postmarked) to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office, 1st Floor, 301 N Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, no later than **May 1, 2020**.

In order to qualify for an additional homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 for persons age 65 or older, the "Household Income" (cumulative "adjusted gross income") of all persons living in the home cannot exceed **\$30,721**. This exemption applies only to the property taxes levied by the taxing authorities granting the exemption for **2020**.

Section 196.075, F.S. - Additional Homestead Exemption for Persons 65 and Older.

- (a) "Household" means a person or group of persons living together in a room or group of rooms as a housing unit, but the term does not include persons boarding in or renting a portion of the dwelling.
- (b) "Household Income" means the adjusted gross income, as defined in s.62 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, of all members of a household.

If you file a tax return, this is the amount reported on IRS Form 1040, line 7. If you do not file a tax return, adjusted gross income includes but is not limited to wages, salaries, tips, taxable interest, ordinary dividends, capital gain distributions, taxable IRA distributions, taxable pension and annuities, unemployment compensation, and taxable social security benefits.

For questions, please contact Exemptions Services at 561.355.2866 or myexemption@pbcgov.org