

PRESS RELEASE

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Property Tax Postponement Program Available for Low Income Taxpayers at Least 62, Blind or Disabled

SANTA ANA, Calif. – Orange County Treasurer Shari Freidenrich announces the opening of the application period for the California Property Tax Postponement Program (PTP) that allows low income seniors, blind and disabled property owners to defer their fiscal year 2020-21 secured property taxes on their principal residences if they meet established criteria.

The program does not allow for postponement of delinquent property taxes. Information is available by either emailing <u>postponement@sco.ca.gov</u>, at the <u>California State Controller's Office website</u>, or by calling 800-952-5661. The program is on a first come, first served basis.

Homeowners can also go to the Treasurer's website at <u>ttc.ocgov.com</u> to access the state PTP information by clicking on the Property Tax Postponement icon in the middle of the page.

"Low income seniors, blind and disabled property owners have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and this program may be able to help them this year," Treasurer Freidenrich said. "Those who are living in mobile homes can apply as long as they do not have delinquent taxes from previous years."

Interested applicants will need to submit a copy of their current year property tax bill along with other required documents. An online copy of your property tax bill is acceptable and can be found at ocgov.com/octaxbill or by scanning the QR code below and then entering your APN or property address. To qualify, a homeowner must meet all of the following criteria (contact the State as criteria may change):

- Own or occupy the real estate as a principal place of residence
- Have a household income of \$45,000 or less
- Have at least 40 percent equity in the property
- Not have a reverse mortgage on the property
- Be at least 62 years of age, or blind or disabled
- Can have delinquent prior year taxes (except for mobile homes)

A 5 percent interest rate per year will be charged for taxes postponed under the PTP. Applications will be accepted through February 10, 2021. Property taxes must be paid on time through the application process and if approved, homeowners will receive a refund minus the amount due under the program.

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