



# EDWARD J. LEONARD

## *Franklin County Treasurer*

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[www.franklincountyohio.gov/treasurer](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/treasurer)

### For Immediate Release

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### Franklin County's Slight Delay in Issuance of 2008 Tax Bills

**Columbus, (OH)** -The Auditor and Treasurer are jointly announcing the delay in issuance of the 2008 tax bills. Typically, bills for the first half collection for real estate taxes are mailed on or around December 17th. This year, the ability to enter 2008 real estate tax rates has been held up due to delays in the certification of real estate values and official election results from neighboring counties that have an impact on Franklin County. As a result, Franklin County tax bills which also include many new tax levies which passed this year could not be produced until December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Treasurer's office received the bill file late Sunday night and has begun converting that file which takes about a day (to actually convert in to the bill format, proof and then approve printing). Today and tomorrow we will issue approximately 216,308 electronic bills to our "bulk" payers. Approximately 205,343 paper bills will start being printed by tomorrow. Paper bills should start arriving in mailboxes as early as Tuesday December 30, 2008.

The due date for payment of real estate taxes is January 20, 2009. If paying by the end of the year is not a concern, please be reminded that to be considered timely, your payment must be postmarked on or before January 20<sup>th</sup>.

We understand that there may be federal income tax ramifications for some tax payers if they do not make their local real estate tax payment by December 31, 2008. We offer a wide variety of payment options for taxpayers and encourage these customers to take advantage of our online bill payment service:

- After 12:00 p.m. tomorrow (12/23/08) taxpayers may make an electronic payment from their bank account or by credit card by visiting our website at <https://www.franklincountyohio.gov/treasurer>. Receipt of a paper tax bill is not necessary to make this type of payment.

- When paying by check, please include the parcel number on the check's memo area to ensure proper credit.
- If paying by the end of 2008 is a concern, and the tax payer does not have access to the Internet or does not wish to pay taxes online, once the taxpayer has received their tax bill, there are still several payment options to ensure payment is made by the end of 2008.
  - Payments may be made in person at our office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (373 S. High St. 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Courthouse Complex)
  - Payment may be made at any of our regional bank branch collection sites (available to customers at Huntington National Bank, National City, U.S. Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Chase Bank and Columbus First Bank). Payments received at any of these locations on or before December 31, 2008 will be considered timely.

As a result of these delays, we are not able to debit the checking accounts on December 31, 2008 for our customers who participate in the Direct Debit Program. The information needed for 2008 taxes was not received in time to prepare a debit file for the banks and also to provide legally required advance notification of the debit amount.

For additional questions regarding payment options, taxpayers may contact the Treasurer's office at (614) 462-3438 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For questions regarding real estate values or tax rates contact the Auditor's office at (614) 462-HOME (4663) or [www.franklincountyauditor.com](http://www.franklincountyauditor.com).

We are committed to providing excellent customer service to you in the future and we apologize for any inconvenience that this change may cause.