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Treasurer Offers Help to Straddled Taxpayers

Richland County residents can pay taxes in installments.

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The tough economy appears to be impacting the payment of real estate and personal property taxes in Richland County.

The county treasurer's office says there's been an increase in the number of people who have *not* paid taxes due in January, compared to the previous year.

County Treasurer David Adams told WVOC, "It's not a huge number, but we have seen an uptick in the number of properties that have gone delinquent. Right now, what I'm worried about is the folks who have traditionally had trouble scraping money together to pay their taxes are gonna have a harder time in this economy. So, we're trying to let people know that we have payment options for them to be able to meet their tax obligations."

Adams says his office is the first in the state to work with taxpayers through installment payments.

"People can come to our office or call our office to set up a payment plan for their delinquent taxes that will allow them a set number of payments, according to an agreement, to be able to pay off their final balance before the property goes to tax sale," Adams explains.

He says the Richland County Treasurer's Office was also the first to offer installment payments in advance of the next year's tax bills, where his office acts as an escrow agent for the taxpayer.

Adams says it's important for those having trouble paying their taxes to contact the treasurer's office as soon as possible at (803) 576-2250, extension 2, or they can go online to richlandonline.com/departments/treasurer/index.asp.

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