



March 2018

Dear Friend,

March is right around the corner and brings its own special version of March Madness to our service centers. We expect longer-than-normal wait times as clients rush to pay property taxes before the March 31 deadline. March is also the time of year when teen drivers come in during Spring Break to take their driving test. March is a great time of year to visit www.pbctax.com to pay online. Our website is here to serve you 24/7!

Best,

Anne M. Gannon

Anne Gannon Featured in Local Magazines

If you happen to pick up February's issue of [The Palm Beacher](#) or [Jupiter Magazine](#), make sure to read the feature article, "Women in Government." The piece, written by Amy Woods, highlights 12 women in county leadership positions including Constitutional Tax Collector Anne M. Gannon.

The article does a fine job of highlighting Palm Beach County's commitment to diversity in leadership. Tax Collector Gannon is a Constitutional Officer independently elected by Palm Beach County voters. Elected by an overwhelming majority in 2006 and re-elected in 2008 and 2012, Anne is the first woman to hold this office.

Two other Constitutional Officers are featured alongside Tax Collector Gannon. They are Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks and Clerk & Comptroller Sharon Bock. These three women are elected public officials who are authorized by the Florida Constitution to carry out specific duties on behalf of the state. This important role is part of a system of "Constitutional checks and balances" that limit (check) the County Commission's power by having Constitutional Officers carry out other powerful governmental duties (balance). Most importantly, Tax Collector Gannon is directly accountable to Palm Beach County citizens.



Featured L-R: 1. Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks, 2. Public Defender Carrie Haughwout, 3. Clerk & Comptroller Sharon Bock, 4. Tax Collector Anne Gannon photo credit: Jupiter Magazine

To learn more about the role of Constitutional Officers, please visit <http://www.pbctax.com/about-us>.

Meet Your Civic Engagement Liaisons

The Tax Collector's Office is committed to providing quality public outreach and education about our services, payment options and special initiatives. This includes building relationships with constituents and key stakeholders. That's the important work of our Civic Engagement Liaisons, who advance the mission of the Tax Collector's Office in the communities we serve.



Amy Murphy, Civic Engagement Liaison
North Palm Beach County

Amy Murphy is our Civic Engagement Liaison covering North County which includes all communities north of Southern Boulevard as well as western Palm Beach County (Belle Glade, Pahokee, etc.). Her expertise includes marketing communication, advertising and civic engagement. She moved here in 2005 from the Buffalo, New York area. Amy joined the Tax Collector's Office in 2015.

We welcomed Gabriella "Gaby" Ferraro to the team in January 2018, as our South County Civic Engagement Liaison covering our communities south of Southern Boulevard. She offers a decade of government communication experience. Gaby may look familiar, she spent several years working as a reporter at a local TV news station. Gaby grew up in South County, and is excited to develop partnerships in the area.

You will likely see Amy and Gaby representing the Tax Collector's Office at community events or meetings. Please stop by and introduce yourself! You can also get in touch with them directly at amurphy@pbctax.com or gferraro@pbctax.com. They look forward to serving you and your community!



Gaby Ferraro, Civic Engagement Liaison
South Palm Beach County

Avoid March Madness by Paying Online

Spring Break is right around the corner. Palm Beach County schools are closed March 19-23. We will be busy during this week with teenagers visiting our offices for their first driver's license. If you must visit a service center, follow these tips for a smooth and easy visit:

- Make an appointment for Driver License transactions. Be sure to book your appointment online well in advance. Appointments fill up quickly.
- Bring all required forms and documents.
- Prior to your visit, check wait times online at www.pbctax.com/locations-hours/wait-times.
- Go online to renew motor vehicle registrations, REAL ID driver licenses/ID cards (if already REAL ID'd), make local business tax payments, pay property taxes and purchase hunting/fishing licenses.

Distracted Driving Legislation

Everyone knows that texting while driving distracts drivers and causes accidents. Knowledge of that fact seems to do little to end the behavior. Since 2013 Florida law has classified texting while driving as a secondary offense. This means a driver cannot be pulled over for texting while driving. There must be another reason for stopping the driver such as speeding or driving recklessly.



The Florida Legislature has an opportunity to make roads safer from distracted drivers. They are considering a bill that would make texting while driving a primary offense. The bill doesn't stop at texting; it includes reading or sending a text, email or instant message while driving. Let's not wait for legislation. Join us and pledge to put the phone away and say "no" to distracted driving temptations. Contact your local elected official to voice your support <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/contacts/elected-officials/>.

Property Tax Deadline

March is the last month to pay property taxes. Property Taxes are due by March 31. Pay online at www.pbctax.com. Electronic checks are free.