



# TAX TALK

WITH ANNE M. GANNON  
CONSTITUTIONAL TAX COLLECTOR



Serving Palm Beach County, *Serving You.*

[www.pbctax.com](http://www.pbctax.com)

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Dear Friends,

October is crunch time. We are hard at work preparing and printing approximately 700,000 property tax bills. Your bill is slated to arrive late this month or within the first few days of November. Now is the time to consider your options. Ask yourself:

***What payment method works best for me and my family?***

***When is the best time to pay?***

***Should I consider a payment plan for next year's property taxes?***

In this edition, we'll help you answer these questions and more.

Best regards,

Anne M. Gannon  
Constitutional Tax Collector

## SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive your copy of Tax Talk via email at [www.pbctax.com/TaxTalk](http://www.pbctax.com/TaxTalk)



## EASY WAY TO SAVE

Paying property taxes early has its benefits, especially for your bottom line. There's a 4% discount for Property Tax bills paid in November. The discount drops to 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February. There is no discount for property tax bills paid in March. Property Taxes become delinquent April 1, 2017.

## ONLINE VS. SNAIL MAIL

Can you believe the majority of property owners still pay their property tax bill by mail?

We receive thousands of paper checks – the majority of them in November. This influx slows down payment processing. During peak property tax season, it takes 10 to 12 business days to process a paper check. Add in the time it takes for postal service delivery, and it takes three weeks or longer for your payment to post. If there is an error with your paper check, the return time is six to eight weeks.

Now for the 21st century solution. Online payments post in one to three business days. There's no worry about payments getting lost in the mail. The payment site is designed to minimize your risk of errors. It's also secure. A third party operates the website which helps us to protect your information. Don't forget... there is no extra fee for eCheck payments.



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Tax Collector Gannon invites you to contact our office with questions at (561) 355-2264 or [ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com](mailto:ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com)

## WANT SMALLER TAX PAYMENTS?

Break up your tax bill. Did you know you can pay property taxes in smaller quarterly payments instead of one lump sum? Enroll in our Installment Payment Plan for 2017 property taxes. Participants make four payments with a discount of slightly under 4%. Installments are due by the last day in June, September, December, and March. Sign up at [www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan](http://www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan). Already enrolled in this payment plan? You do not need to reapply to continue on the Installment Payment Plan.

## SCARY STATS

October 16th through 22nd is National Teen Driver Safety Week, but we all know driver safety is a priority year-round. According to the National Safety Council, 95% of parents who drive distracted admit they continue these unsafe habits in front of their teens. Young drivers pick up on these dangerous habits.

A new AT&T study shows on any given day:

- **660,000** drivers attempt to operate a smartphone while driving.
- **27%** use Facebook
- **27%** use video apps
- **14%** are on Instagram

## BREWING IN THE ATLANTIC

Hint: it's not coffee. October is historically one of the most active months in the Atlantic Hurricane Season. Is your family ready to weather the storm? A few simple steps can make all the difference.



There's still time to access our free 2016 Hurricane Preparedness Guide. It's loaded with local insight, key phone numbers and tips to prepare your family and property. Get your copy at [www.pbctax.com/content/publications](http://www.pbctax.com/content/publications).

## AROUND TOWN

This month, our agency will have representatives at the Alliance of Delray, Century Village's United Civic Organization, COBWRA, Village of Wellington Employee Fair and the Palm Beach North Chamber's 2016 Business Expo at PGA National.

## SERVING YOU BY THE NUMBERS

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Clients Served	69,588	65,880	71,122	70,688
Average Wait Time	50 minutes	44 minutes	39 minutes	45 minutes
Average Help Call Hold Time	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute

## Prevent Payment Delays!

Mailing a payment? Use these tips and your payment processing will be a breeze:

- ✓ Do not tape, fold, staple, paper clip, or write on payment stub.
- ✓ Use the enclosed return envelope.
- ✓ Detach the payment stub and return with payment.
- ✓ Write the Property Control, LBTR Account or License Plate Number on payment.
- ✓ Include enough time for U.S. Postal Service processing and delivery.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 1** Unpaid businesses taxes are delinquent – pay online
- Oct. 1** Mobile home registration renewable through December
- Oct. 4** Vice Presidential Debate (9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 9** Second Presidential Debate (9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 10** Columbus Day – Offices CLOSED
- Oct. 11** Voter registration deadline for the General Election
- Oct. 16-22** National Teen Driver Safety Week
- Oct. 19** Third Presidential Debate (9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.)
- Oct. 20** Tourist Development Taxes due
- Oct. 24** Early voting begins for the General Election (7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily)
- Oct. 31** 2016 Property Tax bills mailed

Interested in having Anne M. Gannon or a Tax Collector representative speak at your next event? Email your request to [ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com](mailto:ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com). Be sure to include the name of the organization, contact information, details and audience for the event.