



"Ask Lori"

**Helpful Tax Saving Advice and Tips from
Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish**

Dear Lori:

I heard a representative of your office speak to our Realtor meeting. He told me your office changed state law to allow taxpayers to make partial payments of their 2009 tax bill this year? How is this new program going to work?

P.L., Plantation, FL (via email)

While the Property Appraiser does not levy or collect taxes, I asked State Senator Jeremy Ring of Parkland (Chair of the Broward Legislative Delegation) To change state law to allow the Broward County Revenue Department to accept one or more partial payments from taxpayers for property taxes and assessments. During the last Florida Legislative Session, Senator Ring was successful in passing Senate Bill 1580 and getting the Governor to sign this bill into law.

Recently, the Broward County Commission enacted this "local option" law. Beginning with the 2009 tax bills, taxpayers will be able to make partial payments to the Broward County Revenue Collection Division. The Revenue Collection Division will accept up to 5 partial payments, along with a \$10.00 processing fee for each partial payment. Partial payments can only be made on current 2009 taxes between November 1 and March 31. The balance must be paid in full before April 1 to avoid interest and penalties on the unpaid balance.

Any unpaid balance becomes delinquent and is handled like any other delinquent tax bill and will be subject to the same interest and penalties, including having a tax certificate sold pursuant to Florida Statute. Partial payment **are not** eligible for any early-payment discount. The taxpayer has the responsibility to ensure that the remaining amount due is paid timely. The county will not send monthly invoices. Partial payments cannot be made on delinquent taxes.

Not all Florida counties are participating in this program. If you own properties in other counties, please check with your local Tax Collector's Office to determine if this program is available.

Should you have any questions or wish to participate in the program, please contact the Broward County Collection Division at 954.831.4000 or visit their website at www.broward.org/revenue.

Sincerely,

If you have a question for the Property Appraiser, please email Lori at lori@bcpa.net or write to her at the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 111, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.