

## USPS policy change on postmarks may affect tax payments becoming delinquent

Forest County Treasurer is encouraging residents who pay their property tax bills by mail to be aware of a recent U.S. Postal Service policy change that may affect when envelopes are postmarked.

In August 2025, the Postal Service instituted a nationwide change as to when a postmark is affixed to incoming mail. Instead of postmarks being affixed when the item is first touched by the Postal Service, postmarks are now stamped at regional sorting centers.

That means your postmark could be several days after you put it in your mailbox.

If you plan to pay your property taxes by mail, don't wait until right before the deadline to put it in the mail.

Many federal and state laws define timely payment based off the USPS postmark, meaning payments may be considered delinquent if they are mailed too close to the deadline — even if they were, in fact, placed in a mailbox before the deadline.

To avoid this issue, we encourage property taxpayers to **mail payments earlier** to avoid becoming delinquent and accruing substantial late fees.

We caution taxpayers about sending tax payments utilizing their personal bank's online bill payment option as those payments are often done in bulk with many other customers' payments and the **envelope is not always postmarked**, so there is a danger those could arrive late and become delinquent as well.

Another option could be to physically bring your payment into the post office and request that they postmark your payment in front of you or by sending it certified mail.

Or Pay online at <https://co.forest>.