

# Rhonda Skipper



# Walton County Tax Collector

**“Commitment to Service”**

For Immediate Release

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## **DON'T LET PROPERTY TAXES BREAK YOUR BANK ACCOUNT** *Installment Plan Allows Property Owners to Pay 2010 Taxes in Quarterly Installments*

**DeFuniak Springs, FL** (March 18, 2010) – In light of the economic hardships faced by many, Walton County Tax Collector Rhonda Skipper is trying to inform taxpayers of a payment alternative available for paying property taxes. The Property Tax Installment Payment Plan allows taxpayers who enroll in the program to pay property taxes in four quarterly installment payments. To enroll, taxpayers must submit an application by April 30 to the Tax Collector's Office.

“We realize the financial difficulty facing many families. The Installment Plan provides taxpayers a little relief by allowing them to pay their taxes in four quarterly installments rather than one lump sum,” said Tax Collector Rhonda Skipper. “Additionally, participants still receive the discounts that are extended to taxpayers who pay prior to the March 31 tax deadline.”

To qualify to participate in the plan, a property owner's previous year tax bill must have exceeded \$100 and an Installment Plan application must be submitted by April 30.

The 1st and 2nd installments are based on  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the previous year taxes. The 1st installment is discounted 6% and due June 30. The 2nd installment is due September 30 and discounted 4.5%. The 3rd and 4th installments are  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the remaining actual tax liability for the current year. The 3rd installment is discounted 3% and is due by December 31. The 4th installment is not discounted and due by March 31.

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### **North Walton Branch**

PO Box 510  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435  
P: 850.892.8121  
F: 850.892.8079

### **Florida Residents**

Call toll-free  
800.342.0141

### **South Walton**

**Courthouse Annex**  
31 Coastal Centre Blvd., Ste. 700  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
P: 850.267.3001  
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[www.waltontaxcollector.com](http://www.waltontaxcollector.com)

### **Property Tax Payment Comparison**

**Traditional Annual Billing**  
Amount Due by March 31: **\$583.96**

**If paid by November 30,**  
taxpayer receives a 4%  
discount: **\$560.60**  
Savings: **\$23.36**

**Installment Plan Quarterly  
Payments:**  
June (6% discount): \$132.21  
September (4.5% discount): \$134.32  
December (3% discount): \$146.81  
March (no discount): \$151.31

**Total paid through Installment  
Plan: \$564.65**  
Savings: **\$19.31**

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**Page 2  
Installment Plan  
March 18, 2010**

The Installment Plan requires that the first installment be made no later than June 30. Failure to make the first payment will automatically terminate the participant's eligibility for the remainder of the year. The taxpayer will then be sent a regular tax bill in November and must apply to be reinstated on the installment plan for future tax years.

“Each tax season I receive calls and emails from taxpayers facing financial hardships who ask for alternative payment options. The law does allow me the authority to accept installment payments,” said Skipper. “Unfortunately, by the time November is here, it is too late for the taxpayer to enroll in the program. Now is the time to enroll, if quarterly payments are more manageable for a taxpayer, then I encourage them to make application for the program by April 30.”

The Property Tax Installment Plan is not a new program and is available statewide. Eligible Florida taxpayers desiring to participate in the Installment Plan must file an application with the Tax Collector’s Office in the county in which their property is located by April 30.

For more information on the Property Tax Installment Plan, visit [wالتontaxcollector.com](http://wالتontaxcollector.com) or call (850) 892-8121.

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**(Photo caption: The Property Tax Installment Plan allows taxpayers to pay property taxes in four, quarterly installments rather than the traditional lump sum payment.)**

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