

CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

A. Calendar of Property Tax Events

January 1	Property taxes are based on assessed property value at this date as determined by the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.
July 1	Assessment roll approved by the state.
September 30	Millage resolution approved by the City Council.
October 1	Beginning of fiscal year for which taxes have been levied.
November 1	Property taxes due and payable.
November 30	Last day for 4% maximum discount.
April 1	Unpaid property taxes become delinquent.
May 15	Tax certificates are sold by the Hillsborough County Tax Collector. This is the first lien date on the properties.

B. Tax Collection

Property tax collections are governed by Chapter 197, Florida Statutes. The Hillsborough County Tax Collector bills and collects all property taxes levied within the County. Discounts are allowed for early payment of 4% in November, 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February. If property taxes are not paid by April 1, the County adds a 3% penalty on real estate, and 1.5% on personal property.

The Tax Collector advertises and sells tax certificates on all real property for delinquent taxes. Certificates not sold revert back to the County. The Tax Collector must receive payment before the certificates are issued. Any person owning land on which a tax certificate has been sold may redeem the land by paying the Tax Collector the face amount of the tax certificate plus interest and other costs. The owner of a tax certificate may at any time after taxes have been delinquent for two (2) years, file an application for tax deed sale. The County, as a certificate owner, may exercise similar procedures two (2) years after taxes have been delinquent. Tax deeds are issued to the highest bidder for the property which is sold at public auction.

Property owners who disagree with the valuation of their property or have been denied an exemption, may contact the Property Appraiser's Office, where they can voice their objection and are given an explanation on how the value of their property was derived. If they are still dissatisfied after this initial review and possible adjustment, they may petition the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). The VAB was created by Florida Statute 194.015 to provide citizens a forum to address complaints when they believe the Property Appraiser has over assessed their property or improperly denied an exemption or classification or tax deferral. Beginning July 1, 2011, property owners must make a partial payment of taxes on properties that have a petition pending on or after the delinquency date. Failure to do so will result in the denial of the petition under Florida Statute 194.014.

The Tax Collector remits current taxes collected through four distributions to the City in the first two (2) months of the tax year and at least are distributed each month thereafter. The City recognizes property tax revenue in the period in which they are levied.

C. Tax Limitations

Florida Statutes set the maximum millage rate at 10 mills of assessed valuation for operating purposes. For the fiscal year-ended September 30, 2015, the approved operating millage was 5.7326 mills.