



**Richland** COUNTY

Treasurer's Office

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News release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **County Treasurer advises USPS policy change on postmarks may affect tax payments**

Richland County Treasurer, Ashley Mott 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, Mott said. 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,” Mott said. “In other words, if you plan to pay your property taxes by mail, don’t wait until right before the deadline to put it in the mail.”

Mott noted that 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, Mott encourages Richland County property taxpayers to mail payments earlier or to use the E-check option to pay online to avoid becoming delinquent and accruing substantial late fees. Only a handful of municipalities in Richland County accept online payments for real estate taxes: Town of Akan, Town of Buena Vista, Town of Dayton, Town of Orion, Town of Rockbridge, Town of Willow, Village of Cazenovia, and City of Richland

Center. Online tax payments can be made on the County's website at <https://pp-richland-co-wi-fb.app.landnav.com/Login> by using the guest sign in option and searching by either the property address or property/parcel number (do not use both).

“While Credit card payments come with a significant 2.95% convenience fee and Debit card payments come with a 1.50% convenience fee, E-check convenience fees for tax payments made on the county web site are a flat \$1.50 per payment which comes out to about the same as postage for your payment and a return receipt,” Mott said. “This could be a great option for people who are concerned that they are mailing their payment too close to the deadline and want to make sure that they are not going delinquent.”

Mott cautioned 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 envelopes do not have the postmark affixed to the envelope, so there is a danger those could arrive late and become delinquent as well. This type of payment has become even more problematic in recent years as the time it takes for USPS items to arrive at its destination after mailing has increased, Mott added.

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, Mott said.