

CHANGE OF BILLING ADDRESS

In Maryland, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is the official custodian of all addresses relative to State, County, and municipal taxes. If you wish to change your mailing address you must notify SDAT. Please note that failure to change the mailing address does not relieve the taxpayer of the obligation to pay the property tax bill. If you have moved, or if your address is incorrect, submit your correct PERMANENT address change only, then detach and mail to:

Supervisor of Assessments and Taxation
Dorchester County
P.O. Box 488
Cambridge, MD 21613

PLEASE PRINT

Property ID

Name of Property Owner

House Number and Street Name

Supplemental Address (care of, etc.)

City, State and ZIP Code

Phone Number

Property Owner Signature

Do not use this form to change names shown on the tax bill. For information about changing names, call the State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Tax Year & Rates

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011
Real Property is assessed at 100% of market value

State Tax Rate:
\$0.112 per \$100 of assessment

County Tax Rate:
\$0.896 per \$100 of assessment
\$0.857 per \$100 of assessment in Cambridge
\$0.857 per \$100 of assessment in Hurlock

Assessment Information

All real property in the County is subject to taxation, except that which is specifically exempt. Each property is assessed every three years by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). For more details and questions about your assessment and the appeal process, please contact SDAT at 410-228-3380 or visit their website at www.dat.state.md.us.

Questions About Tax Calculations

Questions about tax calculations or payments should be directed to Dorchester County Department of Finance, Treasury Division at 410-228-4343.

Town of Hurlock Municipal Taxes

Through a partnership between the County Council and the Mayor and Council of Hurlock, the County now bills and collects municipal taxes for the Town of Hurlock.

**For more budget and financial information
please visit your county website at
www.docogonet.com.**



2011 Dorchester County Taxpayer Information

Citizen Survey 2010

Dorchester County recently conducted its first citizen survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather resident feedback as to the quality and priority of services funded with County tax dollars. The information was used by Council in developing their planning and funding strategies for the 2011 budget. 636 citizens, or 2% of our population completed the survey. The complete report is available on the County website. Future surveys will be included with property tax billings. The following summary reflects the most common responses from the 2010 survey:

36.8% of respondents live in the City of Cambridge
54.7% have lived in County for more than 20 years
53.3% are currently employed, full time
28.5% are between 55 and 64 years of age
59.2% rated County as "good" place to live
45.5% rated County as "good" place to raise children
42.0% rated County as "fair" place to work
48.0% rated County as "good" place to retire
56.7% rated overall quality of life in County as "good"
27.8% rated public library as "excellent" quality
70.4% rated fire services as "essential" service
68.2% rated jobs as "essential" issue to address
84.3% rated employment opportunities as the issue needing most improvement
39.9% are satisfied with the current level of taxes and services

State Bay Restoration Fee

The Maryland State Government enacted the State Bay Restoration Fund in 2004. For users of private septic systems the state's annual charge of \$30.00 is included in the Dorchester County Tax Bill. For additional information, visit the Maryland Department of the Environment website at www.mde.state.md.us.

Homestead Property Tax Credit

To assist homeowners who are affected by large assessment increases, the State of Maryland, Dorchester County, and municipalities limit the annual taxable assessment increase to a percent set by law. This limit, called the Homestead Tax Credit, is not applicable the first year following the purchase of a home, and therefore the taxable assessment may be substantially higher than it was for the previous owner. The homestead tax credit is administered by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). This credit only applies to owner occupied residential property. If you are eligible but did not receive the credit or wish to learn more about the program, please contact SDAT at 410-228-3380 or visit their website at www.dat.state.md.us. For Fiscal Year 2011, the limits are 10% for the State of Maryland, 10% for the Town of Hurlock, 5% for Dorchester County and all remaining municipalities.

Homeowners Property Tax Credit

Maryland's Homeowners Property Tax Credit is administered by SDAT. This tax credit is granted to eligible homeowners of all ages. Applications for this program must be filed by September 1st. The program provides tax credits for homeowners who qualify on the basis of their household income as compared to their tax bill. Eligibility factors include (1) combined total household income cannot exceed \$60,000, and (2) a net worth not to exceed \$200,000 excluding the value of the primary residence and qualified retirement assets. For further information or to obtain an application form, contact SDAT at 1-800-944-7403, or visit their website at www.dat.state.md.us.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

No Tax Rate Increase

The County Council adopted a real property tax rate of \$0.896 per \$100 of assessed value, which is unchanged from the previous fiscal year. Property taxes are the main source of funding for the majority of services directly provided by County government and its related agencies. Taxpayers will continue to benefit from the 5% homestead credit, which is estimated to provide \$3.5 million of tax relief for primary residents. The County's tax rate for FY 2011 will maintain our position among Maryland counties with the lowest tax rates.

Municipal Property Tax Relief

The adopted budget continues tax relief targeted towards municipalities who provide services duplicative of services provided by the County. This relief, known as a tax differential, is in the form of a decreased county property tax rate within the municipal limits. The County will decrease its property tax rate by \$0.039 within the City of Cambridge and the Town of Hurlock.

Strategic Use of Reserve Fund

To ensure stable tax rates and reduce risks of economic downturns and emergency expenditures, the Council created a Reserve Fund targeted to equal 5% of our budgeted general fund revenues. Our 2011 budget uses funds \$3.0 million from this Reserve to offset reductions in state aid for highway maintenance, and preserve delivery of services to our residents.

Cost Containment

To address the economic uncertainty and reductions in state aid, the top priority of this budget was to balance the preservation of essential services to residents while maintaining low taxation. Budgeting strategies implemented include a hiring freeze, a targeted 2.5% reduction in department operational costs, reduced capital funding, planned withdrawals from the Reserve Fund, and continuation of employee furloughs combined with a 3.125% temporary salary reduction. The 2011 adopted general fund operating budget totals \$49,873,427, down 5.9% or \$3.1 million from the 2010 budget.

Adopted General Fund Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Description	Amount	Percent
Revenues		
Property Taxes	\$29,938,117	60.0%
Income Taxes	\$8,600,000	17.2%
All Other	\$3,291,423	6.6%
Federal, State, and Local	\$3,214,735	6.4%
Services Charges	\$2,340,741	4.7%
Other Taxes	\$2,269,386	4.6%
Licenses and Permits	\$219,025	0.4%
Total Revenues	\$49,873,427	100.0%
Expenditures		
Education	\$18,666,091	37.4%
Public Safety	\$10,551,225	21.2%
General Government	\$4,436,342	8.9%
Employee Benefits	\$4,299,994	8.6%
Debt Service	\$4,155,917	8.3%
Public Works	\$3,910,951	7.8%
Health	\$1,035,000	2.1%
Miscellaneous	\$838,114	1.7%
Recreation & Parks	\$530,033	1.1%
Economic Development	\$503,138	1.0%
Social Services	\$434,421	0.9%
Natural Resources	\$394,149	0.8%
Capital PAYGO	\$118,052	0.2%
Total Expenditures	\$49,873,427	100.0%

Check your tax account or
pay your property taxes online
at www.docogonet.com

This publication is provided for your information by

THE COUNTY COUNCIL of DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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