MACATFO Online Payment Portal

MACATFO is currently working with Official Payments Corporation to develop the online payment portal. The ultimate goal is to have a hosted solution with access to all participating counties giving the taxpayers the ability to pay online with a credit card or e-check; in multiple counties in a single payment; and providing a taxpayer payment plan in which citizens sign up for a program that fits their needs. While the main focus of the payment portal began with property taxes, the opportunity for payments for other services will also be offered.

At the time of this printing, OPC is signing up counties who wish to collect taxes by e-check or credit card for the first half of 2006. While the hosted solution is not available at this time as the contract is still being negotiated, OPC has offered two solutions - one for those counties who already provide tax information online but no payment engine and also "blind" payments for those counties who do not offer any online services.

OPC is in the process of building the portal page for MACATFO. Each county will have their own page. This page, for example, will allow the Treasurer to write a short bio on them, list their office hours, state important upcoming events, provide other links, list the IVR number for making payments by phone, etc. The Treasurer will be able to edit and update the content of their page at any time.

Blind Payments - In this scenario, there will be a link listed under a heading on their page – Online Services – This link will be to "Pay your taxes by credit card" and "Pay your taxes by electronic check". Once the user chooses the link, it will direct them to Official Payments and the drop down boxes for this county and the payment type will be selected so the user can click and continue to make their payment. The county will receive daily reports of all activity. In this option, the taxpayer will need to know their tax information to make the payment.

County currently has property lookup on their site – The link will take them right to their site (or the user starts at the county page). The user looks up their property information and chooses to pay from the County site.   OPC will work with the County IT staff to provide the products so the county can use the payment engine to process credit card or electronic check transactions. The county will receive daily reports of all activity.

There is no cost to the individual counties wishing to participate. The fee to the user will be 2.75% on credit cards and $2.75 for an e-check. OPC is also sharing a portion of the fees collected with MACATFO. For those counties already using OPC for payments, the fee will be reduced to reflect the MACATFO agreement.

Keep watching for more information as the hosted solution gets developed. If you have questions, please direct them to the MACATFO Web Portal Committee.

3/31/06