

Treasury News

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Issue 10

October 2003



What do you do? You're out shopping for a new car, it's Friday evening and you want to know how much it will cost to title and tag your new vehicle. Simple, just access the internet at www.e-treasury.us or www.ellisco.net. Saturday morning you find the house of your dreams but don't want to commit until you find out what the tax history is on your dream home. Simple, just access the internet at www.e-treasury.us or www.ellisco.net. You're planning a lengthy vacation and you don't want to miss the deadline to renew your registrations, but you can't remember the last day you can renew. Simple, just access the internet at www.e-treasury.us or www.ellisco.net.

For the past two years the Ellis County Treasury has been constructing a website that would make the Treasury available 24-7-365. This past year has witnessed many new accomplishments to this end. Now available is a tax estimator for calculating motor vehicle fees, a tax search engine, calendars, an electronic newsletter and much more.

The Treasury section of the Ellis County website covers a gamut of topics. Property Tax, Motor Vehicle, Types of Payments, Treasury Notes, Treasury Calendar, Introduction to Treasury Staff and a variety of links unique to the Treasury are the topics currently addressed on this site.



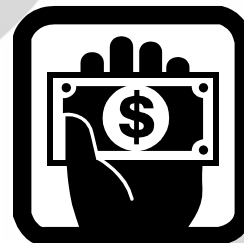
Property Administration deals with tax issues specific to Ellis County, not included, income tax. Effective November 15, 2003 all

taxes maintained by the Ellis County Treasury will be made available on the Internet. Tax searches may be done by name, address, legal or parcel number. Currently this information is attained by calling or stopping by the Ellis County Treasury. The goal of the Ellis County Treasury is to continue to provide the best service possible at a minimum of office intervention. This search engine will provide tax information for tax years 1989 through 2003 and give totals due as well as



amounts paid. It will also break out general taxes from specials. If a tax amount is outstanding the paid column will state 'No' for taxes paid. The information being accessed for this search engine will be updated daily.

Motor Vehicle is that portion of the website dedicated to motor vehicles. This section is packed full of pertinent information related to titling, registering, buying, selling or any other situation specific to motor vehicles. It contains links to sites helpful in buying vehicles and has a tax estimator section. The tax estimator is used in calculating fees when purchasing a new or used vehicle. Instead of calling the Treasury for fees, a vehicle owner can access the tax estimator and get the same information any time of day.



Payments explains the many different methods of making payments to the Ellis County Treasury. Inclusive are on-line tax payments, the use of credit cards, ACH transfers, debit cards and others. The Official Payments Corporation is the key to be used for making credit card payments. This link provides for the use of Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover Card. It should be noted that a convenience fee is charged and retained by Official Payments Corporation. Convenience fees are given at the start of each transaction giving the user the opportunity to abort and not pay by credit card.



Notes is reserved for announcements and news reports. As events happen or statutes dictate changes these will be reported in this section. Anyone interested in receiving an electronic mailing of this section should complete the subscription form on the home page of the Treasury website. This service is free and will be delivered to subscribers through the internet using their email address.



Calendar lists past and upcoming events for the Treasury. Deadlines, publications and Holidays are a few of the items listed in this section. As was the case with Notes, if anyone would like to receive an electronic reminder of upcoming events they

must complete the subscription form on the home page of the Treasury website. This service is free and will be delivered to subscribers via the internet using their email address. It should be noted that anyone completing the subscription form will receive both Notes as well as Calendar reminders.



Staff offers the internet user the opportunity to meet the Ellis County Treasury staff. Users can now attach a face to a name and be provided with email addresses

Two other keys of interest located on the home page of the Treasury website are Money Wise and Kansas Sales Tax Calculator. Money Wise is linked to the State Treasurers monthly financial newsletter. Kansas Sales Tax Calculator is also linked to the State Treasurer and assists in calculating sales tax. Effective July 1, 2003, sales tax in the State of Kansas must be figured based on the point of delivery of goods and services, as required by House Bill 2005 resulting from the 2003 Kansas legislative session.

County & state Phone Numbers

Area Code (785)

Appraiser	628-9400
Attorney	628-9405
Clerk	628-9410
Commissioners	628-9411
IT (Data)	628-9435
District Court	628-9415
Emergency Management	628-1060
Emergency Medical Services	628-9461
Environmental	628-9449
Extension	628-9430
Health	628-9440
Noxious Weed	628-9445
Public Works	628-9455
Register of Deeds	628-9450
Rural Fire	628-1061
Sheriff (administrative calls)	625-1040
<u>Treasury</u>	
Tags/Taxes	628-9465
Regular Fax	628-9467
Insurance Fax	628-9470
KS Drivers License	625-6917
KS Highway Patrol	
Vehicle Inspection	625-3518

Questions & Answers



Tax Statements - mailed **once** a year, in November. No second half notice is mailed but you can request a reminder by subscribing to the mail list on the homepage of Ellis County Treasury at www.e-treasury.us.

Receipts - must be requested, otherwise none are printed

Deadline dates for 2003 Taxes - 1st half or full payments-December 22, 2003, 2nd half payments-May 10, 2004.

Drop box - for tax payments or registration renewals, located in the bottom left window on the north east corner of the courthouse.

Public Parking - north parking lot along northeast corner of the courthouse.

Handicap Parking - north and south parking lots as marked.

Delinquent Taxes - real estate published in the Hays Daily News 3 consecutive weeks prior to the first Tuesday of September, all other types of delinquent taxes published in the Hays Daily News within 10 days after October 1 of each year for 3 consecutive weeks.

Interest rates - for delinquent taxes are based on the current federal rate as per Kansas Statutes Annotated and may go up after January 1, 2004.

Some motor vehicle forms - are now available on the Internet www.ellisco.net www.kansastreasurers.org or www.ink.org/public/kdor/dmv/dmvforms.html.

Treasury E-mail address - treasury@ellisco.net.

Official Payment Corp - service corporation used so taxpayers may charge using VISA, Master Card, American Express and Discover credit cards. Toll-free phone number **1-800-2PAY-TAX (1-800-272-9829)**, jurisdiction number **2602**, or website **222.8882paytax.com**, clicking on **payment center**. A convenience fee is assessed to the taxpayer based on the tax amount being charged and is retained by Official Payment Corp

Payment Options



The Ellis County Treasury continues to search for more and better ways for taxpayers to pay taxes or pay for motor vehicle transactions.

Official Payments Corp

Allows taxpayers to use the following credit cards:

- ✓ Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover
- ✓ Convenience fee is charged according to amount charged
- ✓ Toll free number: 1-800-272-9829
- ✓ Jurisdiction number: 2602
- ✓ Confirmation number must be given to Treasury for verification

- ✓ Internet access: www.ellisco.net
- ✓ Option: Treasury, 4, 3

Electronic or e-check

- ✓ Internet access: www.ellisco.net
- ✓ Option: Treasury, 4, 2

ACH payments

Form must be obtained from the Ellis County Treasury

- ✓ Phone number: 785-628-9465
- ✓ Internet access: www.ellisco.net
Option: Treasury, 4, 4
- ✓ No service fee
- ✓ Withdrawn on December 22, 2003 (1st half or full), May 10, 2004 (2nd half)

Debit Cards

- ✓ Limited to the following: ATM Networks, Cash Station, Pulse Pay, Maestro, Interlink, EFTI, TYMI, MAC, Money Station, MagicLine and Honor/Star.
- ✓ Can only be used in the Treasury office
- ✓ Must know personal ID # or PIN

Announcements



Governor Kathleen
Sebelius changes 2nd
Half deadline.....
Effective in 2004
the 2nd half deadline
for paying property
taxes will change
from June 20th
to May 10th.

Are you eligible for a Tax Refund or Credit?

The following is updated information from the Kansas Department of Revenue concerning the refund of homestead **property tax, food sales tax and business machinery and equipment tax credits** and how to claim these **refunds or tax credits** for tax year 2003. The eligibility requirements for these refunds and credits were unchanged.

Homestead Property Tax Refund - a property tax refund for eligible homeowners and renters.

To Qualify:

- As a Kansas resident for all of 2003, you are eligible for a refund of up to \$600 if your total "household income" is \$25,000 or less, AND: you were born before January 1, 1948, OR
- you were totally and permanently disabled or blind for the entire year of 2003, OR
- you have a dependent child who lived with you the entire year that was born before January 1, 2003, and was under the age of 18 all of 2003.

"Household income" is generally all taxable and non-taxable income received by all members of the household.

? How can I use my expected homestead refund to help pay up to the first half of my property tax?

Homeowners who utilized their homestead ELG letter last year and do not have any outstanding balances with the Kansas Department of Revenue will automatically receive a Refund Advancement Letter and Form ELG from the department this year. To have your advancement amount applied to the first half of your property taxes, take these letters and your 2003 property tax statement to your county clerk's office by December 20, 2003. **IMPORTANT:** You must still file a Homestead Refund Claim, Form K-40H between January 1, 2004 and April 15, 2004.

Food Sales Tax Refund - a refund of the sales tax paid on food purchases.

To Qualify:

If you were a Kansas resident all of 2003, you are eligible if your Kansas adjusted gross income plus certain interest and retirement benefits exempt from Kansas taxation is \$26,300 or less, AND:

- you were born before January 1, 1949, OR
- you were totally and permanently disabled or blind all of 2003, OR
- you have a dependent child you claim as a personal exemption who was born before January 1, 2003, and was under the age of 18 all of 2003.

? How much is the food sales tax refund?

If your income is from \$0.00 to but not more than \$13,150 your refund is \$72 for each exemption. If your income is from \$13,151 to but not more than \$26,300, your refund is \$36 for each exemption. The income brackets are indexed and change each year.

Business Machinery and Equipment Tax Credit - an income tax credit equal to 15% of the personal property tax paid on qualified machinery and equipment.

To Qualify:

You are eligible if you paid personal property tax on qualified business machinery and equipment without incurring any late payment penalties, and you are a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other business organization filing an income tax return. Financial institutions filing a Kansas privilege tax return, and insurance companies paying the

insurance company premiums tax are also eligible for this credit.

“Qualified machinery and equipment,” means items required to be listed for property taxation on Schedule 2, Schedule 5, or Schedule 6 of the rendition. Items that do NOT qualify for the credit include motor vehicles, personal property owned by a public utility, and property not used for a business purpose.

The basis for the credit is the personal property tax timely paid on business machinery and equipment during the tax year. Example: for tax year 2003 (calendar year), the last half of 2002 property taxes paid by June 20, 2003, and the 2003 property tax paid by December 20, 2003, are the basis of the credit.

How to claim your refund or tax credit

Homestead Refund: Complete a Kansas Homestead Claim, Form K-40H, and mail it to the Kansas Department of Revenue anytime from January 1 through April 15, 2004.

Food Sales Tax Refund: Complete the Food Sales Tax Refund portions of the Kansas Individual Income Tax and/or Food Sales Tax Refund return, Form K-40. If you filed a Form K-40 last year, you may use one of our paperless filing options, TeleFile or WebFile, to obtain a faster refund.

Business Machinery & Equipment Tax Credit: Complete Schedule K-64, “Business Machinery and Equipment Tax Credit,” and enclose it with your tax return along with a copy of your personal property tax

receipt. If your paid receipt does not separate the tax paid on qualified property from other personal property taxes paid, obtain a breakdown of the tax paid on qualifying personal property from the county.

Forms are available from the Kansas Department of Revenue, driver’s license exam stations, and other places of convenience throughout the state. Forms may also be ordered from the department’s voice mail forms request line at (785) 296-4937, or downloaded from our web site at **www.ksrevenue.org**.

Taxpayer Assistance

Assistance and additional information on these tax refunds and credits are available from the Kansas Department of Revenue, Docking State Office Building, 915 SW Harrison St., 1st Floor, Topeka, KS 66625. In Topeka call 368-8222; outside Topeka call **toll free: 1-877-526-7738**; Hearing-Impaired TTY; 785-296-6461. Information and forms are also available from the department’s web site at **www.ksrevenue.org**.

Homestead and Food Sales Tax Refund assistance is available from your county clerk or from free volunteer tax assistance programs. Contact your local Department on Aging, Community Action Program, senior center, library or county clerk for information on availability in your area. For assistance in determining the amount of personal property taxes paid on commercial and industrial machinery and equipment, contact your county officials.