



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DETROIT WATER AND SEWERAGE DEPARTMENT (DWSD) TAX ROLL PROGRAM

- Q. What gives DWSD the authority to add water bills to property taxes?**
- A. The Municipal Water Lien Act MCL 123.161, the General Property Tax Act MCL 211.78k, the City Charter Section 7-1502, and various ordinances provide DWSD the legal authority for liens on property receiving water or sewer services.
- Q. When did the department start doing this?**
- A. DWSD began exercising its legal rights to refer delinquent balances to the property taxes in 2005/2006.
- Q. Why wasn't I informed?**
- A. DWSD first notified the public of its intent through information cards included with water and sewer bills. Currently the department uses bill messaging and also sends individual letters to those who may be impacted.
- Q. What period does the delinquency cover?**
- A. June 1 of each year through May 31 of the following year.

Q. Why was this amount added to my property taxes?

A. Because you either failed to respond within ten days to the letter mailed to your attention informing you that the delinquent balance indicated was going to be placed on your property taxes or, you did not make an arrangement to pay the entire delinquent balance or enter into an extended Payment Plan Agreement.

Q. Can this amount be removed from my property taxes?

A. No. You must pay the delinquent amount indicated to property taxes.

Q. Can I lose my property over this delinquency?

A. Yes. Wayne County can foreclose on your property for any unpaid portion of your property taxes, inclusive of the delinquent water/sewer balance.

Q. Can I make payment arrangements with property taxes?

A. No.

Q. After DWSD has referred my account to the Treasurer for collection, where do I make my payment?

A. The City of Detroit Property Tax Division (Revenue Collections Office) is located at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Avenue, 10th floor in Room 1012, phone (313) 224-3213, fax (313) 628-2951. **Please note the only acceptable form of payment in the Revenue Collections Office is cashier's check or money order.**

Q. Will the department continue to exercise this option each year?

A. Yes.

Q. How can I prevent this balance from being added to my property taxes?

A. By paying your entire delinquent balance owing or by entering into a Payment Plan Agreement with the Water and Sewerage Department within the allotted time will prevent the unpaid balance from rolling over to your property taxes. Payment to DWSD may be paid in cash, certified check, money order, or credit/debit card.

