



Office of the County Executive

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## **RACINE COUNTY ADVISES RESIDENTS ON USPS POSTMARK TIMING CHANGES AHEAD OF PROPERTY TAX DEADLINE**

**RACINE COUNTY**—Racine County is alerting residents to recent U.S. Postal Service operational changes that may impact when mailed property tax payments receive an official postmark. Under Wisconsin law, the Racine County Treasurer's Office must use the USPS postmark to determine whether a mailed payment is considered on time. Because some mail is now being postmarked later than the day it is dropped off, residents who mail close to the deadline may be at risk of unintended late fees.

The U.S. Postal Service has updated its transportation and mail processing network nationwide. As part of these changes, some items may not reach automated postmarking equipment until the following day. This means a payment placed in a mailbox or dropped off at a post office on the due date could receive a next-day postmark.

To ensure timely recording of property tax payments, Racine County encourages residents to plan ahead if mailing their payment. Sending payments earlier than usual is the most reliable option. Residents may also use alternative methods, such as secure drop boxes, in-person payment, or online payment portals. Payment options vary by municipality, so residents should review the insert included with their tax bill for specific instructions.

For those who still plan to mail near the deadline, USPS allows customers to request a hand-stamped postmark at the retail counter, which ensures the date of mailing is applied immediately. This option requires visiting a local post office in person.

Residents with questions about payment methods or due dates are encouraged to contact their municipal treasurer's office. Racine County is sharing this information proactively to help residents avoid late fees caused by USPS processing timelines outside of their control. The County remains committed to transparency, clear communication, and supporting taxpayers throughout the property tax payment process.

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