



The Official Publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of  
**THE COUNTY TAX \$ STATEMENT**



**SAVE THE DATE**

*NOV. 29 - DEC. 1*

V.G. Young Institute of County Government 40<sup>th</sup> Annual School for County Tax Assessor-Collectors.

Registration open August 9<sup>th</sup>!

“FORWARD TOGETHER”



2022

**TXDMV UPDATES**

- Registration and Title System Release 13.0
- Title Services

**PTAD UPDATES**

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The County Tax Statement is the official publication of the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association of Texas and is published four times each year for the benefit of its members and interested contributing parties. The purpose of the organization is to promote professional standards, to unify actions for the benefit of its constituents, to be aware and participate in the legislative process, and to provide a vehicle to educate its members in the proper conduct of the constitutional office of the Assessor-Collector of Taxes.



Hello Everyone!

It was great to see all of you in Amarillo, and I hope you enjoyed the conference. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be serving you as President of TACA.

Well, I think all the heat we experienced in Amarillo, has finally reached us here in North Texas. It is HOT!!! We've had at least 10 straight days with temperatures over 100 degrees! I'm looking forward to some cooler weather.

Our off-site event, the musical "Texas", was outstanding and I'll never forget those opening moments of the play, when the horseback rider with the Texas flag, rode across the top of the cliffs above the Palo Duro Canyon. What a sight to behold!

This coming year will see the Legislature convene, which brings with it many challenges. Our Legislative team, headed by Ronnie Keister, Shay Luedeke, Christina McMurray and Jennifer Carey, along with our legislative consultants at Davis Kaufman, will soon begin to figure out which bills TACA should be concerned with and what action, if any, to take. There may be times when each of us is called on to meet that challenge by reaching out to our state representative or senator and voice an opinion as to why we favor or oppose a particular bill. It doesn't matter whether you're from a large or small county - that's where we can face that challenge and go ***"Forward Together"*** with a unified voice.

As I mentioned in Amarillo, you can meet that challenge and make a difference by getting involved. If you haven't signed up for one of our committees, it's not too late. Just let us know. And a special "Shout-out and Thanks" to Jenny Gentry and Kim Sweet for working diligently in putting together our newsletter, *"The County Tax Statement"*.

Wishing all of you the best as we go ***"Forward Together!"***

Bruce Stidham, PCAC

Grayson County Tax Assessor-Collector

President - Tax Assessor-Collector's Association of Texas



Honorary Committee Chair John R. Ames presented Connie Rose, Carolyn Love and Dennis Hart with Honorary TACA Memberships during the Amarillo Conference. Resolutions Committee Chair Rexann Furlow and Vice Chair Teresa Garth provided Resolutions for each of the Honorary members that were read and presented along with a plaque recognizing the membership.



*Connie Rose loves teaching her fellow property tax professionals and has seen many of her pupils have long careers in the tax industry. She has been a consistent resource for Tax Assessor-Collectors over the years, by sharing her knowledge and expertise around the state.*





*Caroline Love worked with the TxDMV where she helped to coordinate TxDMV Board recommendations to the legislature with Tax Assessor-Collectors to ensure successful outcomes. Caroline was a key player in the negotiation process as well as throughout implementation of different projects and programs to help keep things running smooth.*



*Dennis Hart has been a valued friend to the Tax Assessor-Collectors Association and the association recognizes his contributions over the course of his career; a leader, instructor, presenter, trainer, and featured speaker.*



Thank you to all the Tax Assessor-Collectors



that make our organization such a success!





## TxDMV Update

### Registration and Title System (RTS) Release 13.0

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) updated the Registration and Title System (RTS) with Release 13.0 over the weekend of July 23. This update included a variety of enhancements, including strengthening address validation logic to streamline title and registration transaction processing by counties related to Senate Bill 876 (any willing county legislation).

Other notable enhancements in the release include:

- Allowing licensed dealers and commercial fleet buyers to setup title applications with apportioned registration within webDEALER.
- Limiting eTAG system availability hours to reduce fraudulent activity during non-business hours.
- Adding vehicle identification number (VIN) logic in eTAG to prevent issuance of buyer tags to vehicles with a 1981 or newer model year when the VIN is not 17-digits in length.
- Adding ability for the Enforcement Division to programmatically restrict a dealer or converter's eTAG access upon identifying fraudulent issuance of temporary tags pursuant to House Bill 3927 (this was previously a manual process).
- Enhancing 72-Hour and 144-Hour Permit and webPERMITS applications:
  - Prevent issuance of permits to passenger vehicles, except motor buses/buses.
  - Validation of USDOT numbers prior to permit issuance.
  - VIN verification and decoding.
  - Limit system availability hours to reduce fraudulent activity after business hours.
  - Addition of USDOT Number display in Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS).
- Updating the availability of multiple vendor and state specialty license plates.

### Title Services

The Vehicle Titles and Registration Division (VTR) presented rules for adoption at the TxDMV Board meeting on August 11, 2022. These rules amended Texas Administrative Code, §217.9, Relating to Bonded Titles and Texas Administrative Code, §217.5, Relating to Evidence of Motor Vehicle Ownership. The TxDMV Board will vote on final adoption of the rules on August 11. Upon adoption, the rules are effective 20 days after being published in the Texas Register.

The amendments to §217.5 allow applicants to apply for a bonded title using a surety bond as evidence of ownership when seeking an assigned or reassigned number from the department. The surety bond is then used by the applicant to obtain title in their name at the county tax assessor-collector's office. The surety bond is an alternative to the applicant obtaining a court order awarding them ownership of the vehicle. The amendment is intended to streamline processes for applicants and align procedures between manufactured vehicles and assembled vehicles.

The amendments to §217.9 clarified portions of the rule, removed duplicative information, and provided alternatives for establishing the value for vehicles 25 years or older or trailers and semitrailers. The amendments allow owners applying for a bonded title the option to obtain an appraisal in lieu of using a national reference guide. In addition, the amendments allow owners of trailers and semitrailers to use the department's established value of the trailer or semitrailer based on the length of the trailer, in lieu of having to obtain an appraisal. The established values identified in rule include \$4,000, if the trailer is under 20 feet in length, or \$7,000, if 20 or more feet in length.

Staff provided policy and procedure updates to Regional Service Centers relative to these amendments. Updates to the Motor Vehicle Title Manual will be addressed in the October revision.

## VTR Regional Service Center Staff Development Days

On May 10, VTR's Regional Service Centers started the Staff Development Days program for 2022 at the Austin RSC. Each region has one day scheduled to train staff on important updates and changes regarding all lines of department business. Courses are led by VTR headquarters management and RSC managers in person and virtually. These continuing education courses include *Title Control Systems*, *Vehicle Data Management*, *Special Plates* as well as human resources topics. Staff Development Days are scheduled through August 23, ending with the Longview RSC.

## PTAD Update

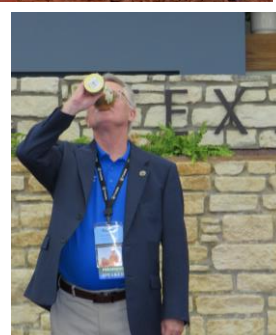
### The Property Tax Assistance Division

The Property Tax Assistance Division (PTAD) is currently finalizing additional formatting edits to seven 2022 Truth-In-Taxation (TNT) tax rate calculation worksheets, including the Emergency Revenue Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet. Be on the lookout for the PTAD's email notification when it posts the updated TNT forms on its website.

In other news, we are creating three new one-pagers as informational resources for your offices. These will cover frequently asked questions related to the optional disaster area tax rate calculations, information specific to water districts, and information specific to school districts.

PTAD is also exploring the possibility of hosting a TNT online forum (hot topics) about 2023 potential legislative changes and other TNT topics. Contact Craig Williams or Catie Burleigh with questions or suggested topics at [PTAD.TNT@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:PTAD.TNT@cpa.texas.gov). Stay tuned.





*A little  
conference  
fun...*



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