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# Washoe treasurer: Tax refund 'is going to take a long time'

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INCLINE VILLAGE, Nev. — Washoe County finance officials are urging Incline residents to pay their 2011-'12 property tax bills in a timely manner, despite them not reflecting possible adjustments resulting from the Nevada Supreme Court's recent ruling in favor of Incline taxpayers.

“The roll-forward affect of the 2006-'07 value change will impact each parcel differently, depending on a variety of variables,” said Tammi Davis, Washoe County treasurer, in a written statement. “Because there is no way to know whether it will impact the amount due on a particular 2011-'12 tax bill until the calculation is done for that parcel, the Treasurer is urging Incline residents to continue to pay their taxes timely.”

In a follow-up interview Wednesday, Davis said the refund process will likely take a long time, due to the need to analyze the property taxes of each individual parcel affected by the court ruling.

A Nevada state law which caps property tax increases at 3 percent per year means Davis must analyze each property according to the new baseline established during 2006-'07 and determine whether tax bills in ensuing years conform to the state law.

“It's going to take a long time,” she said. “I'm not saying this to represent an 'oh poor

us' scenario — rather I just want Incline residents to have correct expectations regarding the timeline.”

Davis further said she will publicly reveal a plan to manage the refund process during next week's Washoe County Commission meeting.

“This will be an open process,” she said.

## Abundance of caution

Maryanne Ingemanson, president of the Village League to Save Incline Assets, suggested Incline residents pay their current tax bills on time as to avoid any fees, liens or interest associated with late payment.

“We also suggest, to use what I call an abundance of caution, that residents file their taxes under protest,” Ingemanson said Wednesday.

Ingemanson said the Supreme Court ruling indicated that filing under protest was not a prerequisite to procuring a refund, but residents should do so to avoid confusion and ensure a streamlined refund process.

“I strongly suggested the county correct the bills before they went out, but apparently they were already at the post office (when the court ruling was revealed),” she said. “Taxpayers will be owed refunds based on the incorrect bills.”

## Defending Gammick

Commissioner John Breternitz, who has expressed support of Incline taxpayers since

taking office in 2009, defended Washoe County District Attorney Richard Gammick, who has been heavily criticized by Incline residents for continuing a prolonged appeal process that has proved expensive.

“Dick Gammick does not make decisions on his own,” said Breternitz. “Many of the decisions not to settle were driven by the commission. I recognize that a lot of people in Incline don't like the way he handled (the issue), but he was not making the calls.”

Breternitz confirmed a Tuesday evening report by the Reno Gazette Journal that states a 1 percent tax for Washoe County residents to register vehicles with the Nevada DMV to help pay for the refund to Incline property owners is being considered, but added that is one of many options to raise revenue.

“There are a lot of options, which will be revealed at the July 26 commission meeting,” he said.

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