



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

- Q. What gives DWSD the right 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 sewerage 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 and through public service announcements earlier this year.
- Q. What period does the delinquency cover?
- A. June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

- Q. Why was this amount added to my property taxes?
- A. Because you 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. 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.
- 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 is located at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center at 2 Woodward Avenue, 10th floor, Room 1012. (313) 224-3560 or (313) 224-4087.

NOTE: Payment to DWSD must be received in certified check, money order or cash.