



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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County encourages estimated payments in last year of Income Tax; early payments deductible for 2005 tax year

As part of Multnomah County's collection effort, residents will be mailed ITAX postcards to remind tax consultants, preparers and taxpayers that this tax will be due on April 17, 2006. The postcards mailed this week will also include information on how the ITAX revenues are spent.

"As the ITAX closes its last year, we would like to encourage taxpayers to take advantage of the early payment and tax-deduction opportunities," said Multnomah County Finance Manager Satish Nath.

To qualify for tax deduction, payments must be received or postmarked before December 31, 2005. Help Desk staff are available at 503-988-4829 to assist taxpayers in making estimates and an online tax estimating calculator is also available at www.multcotax.org. In the past two years, Multnomah County's ITAX early payment revenue has averaged \$28 million per year.

Mr. Nath further detailed the successful collection of 2003 and 2004 taxes, with more than 90 percent of eligible taxpayers having paid their taxes. The County has collected and distributed \$236 million in revenue from the three-year Multnomah County temporary income tax to county schools, healthcare, senior services and public safety.

Multnomah County's income tax payment system now accepts money from checking and savings accounts. In addition to 2005 estimated payments, taxpayers can also file and pay 2003 and 2004 taxes online. 2005 tax returns will be available in January 2006.

The three-year income tax was created by the passage of the Ballot Measure 26-48 in May 2003 and was reaffirmed by voters in November 2004. This tax expires on December 31, 2005 and final tax payments are due on April 17, 2006.

For more information, visit www.multcotax.org.

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