



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
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UNRAVELING PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION
COUNTY-WIDE TAX ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CENTRALIZED AND SIMPLIFIED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KINGSTON, NY (August 30, 2012)...As a follow-up to a recent report from the Office of the Comptroller which reviewed the benefits of county-wide assessment, Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach is proposing centralization of property tax collection. The move would provide ease of use for the taxpayer and expedite administration and collection for the thirty-nine county entities which presently levy and collect property taxes.

The report identifies that there are thirty-six (36) different offices that currently collect taxes from Ulster County taxpayers and only one of them offers the taxpayer an opportunity to pay online. It further demonstrates that among the fourteen school districts (excluding the City of Kingston) four of them offer a three installment payment plan; six of them offer a two installment payment plan and the remainder demand payment in full. Payment methods are limited to cash and check while only four municipalities offer payment by credit or debit card.

"Current and correct information, ease of payment and cost containment are the driving factors behind this report," said Auerbach. "It is no wonder that the taxpaying public is frustrated over the outdated and convoluted methods of paying property taxes. It's painful to pay the tax bill, or in some cases pay three different bills, and the options and methods of payment vary among the towns, villages and school districts who collect the taxes."

The report encourages a county-wide, centralized tax administration program that would serve as a central point for both tax information and collection, providing a sole source for the taxpaying public with a range of payment methods and online access, while lowering administration cost for towns, villages and school districts.

The report can be found on line at www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller

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The mission of the Ulster County Comptroller's Office is to serve as an independent agency of the people and to protect the public interest by monitoring County government and to assess and report on the degree to which its operation is economical, efficient and its financial condition sound.