OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
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PRESS RELEASE

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Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector Highlights International Fraud Awareness Week

Santa Ana, Calif. – The Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector is reminding residents to remain vigilant against fraud and take steps to protect their financial information and property tax payments. International Fraud Awareness Week is an ideal time to remind Orange County residents that many taxpayers experienced mail fraud and check fraud last year when their secured property tax payments intended for the County were intercepted in the mail by criminals and never reached their destination.

"Last year's fraud incidents serve as a reminder that taxpayers should remain vigilant and consider our secure online payment options including eCheck, which has no service fees. We are committed to providing taxpayers with the information and tools they need to protect themselves while ensuring public funds remain secure," said Treasurer Shari Freidenrich.

To help safeguard taxpayer funds and information, the Treasurer-Tax Collector implements and maintains a variety of fraud prevention and detection measures, including:

- Partnering with its banking institution to utilize fraud prevention tools such as Payee Positive Pay, high-security check stock, ACH and wire transfer fraud monitoring, and Fraud Early Warning Systems.
- Monitoring property tax payments and tax-related transactions for unusual patterns and suspicious activity.
- Reviewing financial records, bank reconciliations, and cash-handling processes to identify discrepancies and unauthorized transactions.
- Working with appropriate authorities to investigate incidents of mail fraud, stolen property tax payments, and stolen property tax refund checks.
- Supporting efforts to hold perpetrators accountable through partnerships with law enforcement agencies.
- Providing fraud awareness education to employees, taxpayers, and community members.

As the County's banker, safekeeper, and tax collector of public funds, the Orange County Treasurer-Tax Collector is responsible for billing, collecting, depositing, recording, and reporting more than $10 billion in property tax revenue in Fiscal Year 2026-27. These funds support critical local services provided by the County, school districts, community colleges, cities, and special districts.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector collaborates with government partners, including the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, to support fraud prevention efforts and expand public awareness. The department also encourages taxpayers to visit its Financial Resources webpage and subscribe to receive email and text notifications regarding fraud prevention resources and upcoming local educational opportunities, including a planned future fraud awareness event at the County Conference Center.

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Mission: Ensure safe and timely receipt, deposit, recording, safekeeping, collection, reporting & payment of public funds.