

# CONTROLLER JOHN CHIANG

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## Chiang Announces Property Tax Relief Program

*Filing Begins This Week for Eligible Senior, Blind, or Disabled Homeowners*

**SACRAMENTO** – State Controller John Chiang announced today that applications will be accepted starting this week for a program that allows eligible senior, blind, or disabled homeowners to postpone payment of all or part of their county property taxes.

To qualify for the annual State Controller’s Office Property Tax Postponement Program, homeowners must be at least 62 years of age or blind or disabled, have at least 20 percent equity in their home, have owned and lived in their home since December 31, 2006, and have a total 2006 household income of \$31,500 or less.

“For senior or disabled homeowners facing financial hardship, this program offers a chance to postpone their property tax payment, free up dollars for other necessities, or even avoid a forced sale or tax default of their home,” Chiang said. “Thousands of California homeowners already have benefited from this program, and I want to spread the word to assist others who can’t immediately pay their property taxes.”

The annual program, which has operated since 1977, charges a low, simple interest rate on the postponed taxes. To secure the postponed amount, the State Controller's Office records a lien against the property. Repayment of the postponed taxes and interest is not due until the homeowner moves from the qualified property; the homeowner sells the home; the homeowner dies and does not have a spouse, domestic partner or other qualified individual who continues to reside in the home; or future property taxes or other senior liens (such as a mortgage) are allowed to become delinquent. However, the homeowner is free to pay off all or part of the balance before it becomes due.

A two-page application, information and assistance are available by calling the State Controller’s Office toll-free at (800) 952-5661, or by visiting the Controller’s website at [www.sco.ca.gov](http://www.sco.ca.gov). Just look for the “Property Tax Postponement” link on the home page. Applications for the 2007 filing year will be accepted until December 10. A new claim form must be filed each year the individual desires to have his or her property taxes postponed.

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