

County Fee Collection for Solid Waste and Recycling Services

What laws has the Mississippi State Legislature Passed to help Counties Collect Fees?

- ▶ Mississippi Code Title 19 Section 19-5-21 states a county may levy an ad valorem tax not to exceed four (4) mills.
- ▶ Counties that intersect with Hwy 35 and Hwy 16 can levy up to six (6) mills.
- ▶ Mississippi River counties can levy up to six (6) mills with a few exceptions.
- ▶ A County with population of 250,000 people which intersects with Interstate 55 and Interstate 20 can levy up seven (7) mills.
- ▶ Interesting Fact: Thirty Six (36) of the eighty two counties show zero mills for solid waste collection.
- ▶ Section 19-5-21 does not reference recycling fees.

Problems Counties Can Have with Collection of User Fees Above Allowed Levied Mills.

- ▶ People will not pay.
- ▶ People will pay one fee and have all their family members bring garbage to one location.
- ▶ Collected millage will not cover the cost.
- ▶ Cost of added staff to administer the billing, collection, and enforcement.
- ▶ BOS were elected to not raise taxes.
- ▶ State Statute allows counties to not allow a person to buy a car tag if they have not paid their user fee and to put a lien on their property. (Unless they own the land people go to another county to buy the tag.)

Success Story in Warren County Since 1992.

What makes this work in Warren County?

- ▶ Partnership with collection company that bills, collects, and manages the program.
- ▶ Company send statements quarterly and communicates with county staff on any abuse in payments.
- ▶ Charge an added fee to cover people that do not pay.
- ▶ Enforcement Officer involved to visit with those that do not pay.
- ▶ County Supervisors have a zero tolerance on collection of the user fees and they insure enforcement of car tag purchase and liens (No levied millage in Warren County for this program)

What Suggestions to Change the Law are we seeing?

- ▶ Each year the State elected officials bring suggested changes to the State Statute Section 19-5-21 for help with the collection of fees. (They never get out of committee)
- ▶ House Bill No. 52 wanted to add requirements that a person could not have their driver license renewed if they were delinquent on paying garbage fees.
- ▶ House Bill No. 52 also allowed the use of collection agencies.
- ▶ This bill added the duties to help collect to the Sheriff.
- ▶ Assess an extra fee charge up to 10% of the fee on any delinquent monthly fee added to the lien.

In Closing:

Interesting Facts:

36 of the 82 Counties in Mississippi has zero collected millage for garbage service.

Highest mills collected for garbage and disposal is 10 mills. Lowest is zero.

Highest total millage rate is Humphreys County at 182.7. Four mills for garbage.

Lowest total millage rate is Winston County at 45.15. Zero mills for garbage.

