



March 23, 2020

Honorable Steve Bellone
H. Lee Dennison Building
100 Veteran Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Honorable Laura Curran
1550 Franklin Ave.
Mineola, NY 11501

Re: Extending the Period for Paying Real Property Taxes

Dear County Executives Steve Bellone & Laura Curran,

The Long Island Builders Institute and Association For a Better Long Island, whose members combine to form the region's largest taxpayer, strongly urge you to request that the Governor extend the real property tax payment deadline, currently scheduled for May 10, 2020, without penalty.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on residents as well as various industries, ranging from small to large businesses, and has posed a threat to the safety and public health on Long Island. The economic impact of COVID19 is yet to be fully known. We are in a state of emergency, where numerous business are required to close and companies are required to reduce their in office workforce by 100%. Therefore, residents and businesses will face difficulty paying real property taxes by May 10, 2020. Time is always the most valuable commodity in business, every added day could mean the difference between survival or failure for countless businesses. A 21-day extension will save businesses, reduce family pressure, and ensure economic development projects move forward.

Section 925-a of the real property tax law gives the government the ability to extend the payment time frame up to 21 days. We are asking that you to urge the Governor to extend the period for paying these taxes with no additional interest or penalties. If the taxes aren't paid within the designated extension, then the same interest and penalties should be in place had there been no extension. Section 20 of the Executive Law allows the Governor to do such action.

In addition to affected residents and business, the state of emergency has impacted the economic development community. Projects face indefinite delays in public hearings, zone changes, etc. Also, the entities that process the necessary building applications are canceling meetings or postponing hearings. The town governments have reduced their staff, thereby making it difficult to function at normal capacity. All of the above mentioned issues place a financial burden on our economic development community.

**The Long Island Builders Institute and Association For a Better Long Island
urge you to request that the Governor extend the real property tax payment
deadline.**

Sincerely,



Mitch Pally, CEO
Long Island Builders Institute



Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo