



Cheryl E. Johnson
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The Cost of Being Taxed

The Tax Office currently contracts with all cities, most school districts, both junior college districts and a handful of special purpose districts providing assessment and collection services at a cost of \$0.32 per parcel (\$1.01/parcel for out of county properties) – less than the cost of a stamp.

This year, we collected nearly \$352M at a cost to our collection partners of \$164,000...not a bad return on investment. How can we do this for so little money? We have no choice. The law allows county tax offices to charge only the “incremental additional cost” which equates to a line of ink and a handful of additional personnel and their infrastructure needs.

While cost is often a driving force behind the decision to contract for tax assessment and collection services, convenience—for both the local government and taxpayers is significant. GCTO’s 24/7 online account information and multiple office locations provide customers various options of conducting business. Whether one less check to write or one less errand to run, centralized tax collections save taxpayers time and governments money, translating to savings for everyone.

Governments collecting their own taxes are listed below as are the GCTO expected cost (excluding one-time conversion fees). As local governments begin the tedious process of developing and adopting budgets, the cost to collect their own taxes should be studied. With the cuts coming down the Austin pipeline, the relatively flat real estate market and on-going financial trends, consolidation of tax collections is an easy and cost effective way of saving money.

<u>Cost by GCTO</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Cost by GCTO</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
\$64,677	Clear Creek ISD*	\$268	GC MUD # 43
\$3,743	Friendswood ISD	\$92	GC MUD # 44
\$5,648	Santa Fe ISD	\$83	GC MUD #45
\$4,272	Texas City ISD	\$170	GC MUD #46
\$3,858	GC Consol. Drainage District	\$2	GC MUD #51
\$220	Bay Colony West MUD	\$74	GC MUD #52
\$158	Flamingo Isles MUD	\$3	GC MUD #57
\$525	GC MUD # 2	\$3	GC MUD #59
\$660	GC MUD # 3	\$9	GC MUD #66
\$750	GC MUD # 6	\$95	GC MUD #68
\$303	GC MUD # 13	\$7	GC Management District #1
\$393	GC MUD # 14	\$263	South Shore Harbour MUD # 2
\$459	GC MUD # 15	\$526	South Shore Harbour MUD # 6
\$178	GC MUD # 29	\$436	South Shore Harbour MUD # 7
\$107	GC MUD #30	\$106	West Ranch Management District
\$84	GC MUD # 31	\$746	WCID # 8
\$64	GC MUD # 32	\$988	WCID # 12
\$337	GC MUD # 39		

* Includes 52,901 parcels out-of-county at a cost of @ \$1.01/parcel