



**TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

[www.taneycountyprosecutor.com](http://www.taneycountyprosecutor.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
(417) 546-7260**

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**RECORD SETTING TAX COLLECTIONS FOR THE STATE**

FORSYTH, MO – The Taney County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announced today that over the 18-month period of January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, \$374,385.31 has been collected in back taxes for the State of Missouri. For comparison purposes only approximately \$124,000 was collected for the six-year period from January 1, 2000 thru December 31, 2006 for cases initiated by the Taney County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Besides having collected \$374,385.31 in back taxes, the Taney County Prosecuting Attorney's Office currently has seven (7) defendants on probation for misdemeanor and felony tax charges. Those defendants are currently paying on an additional \$182,240.65 in tax restitution owed to the State of Missouri.

Pursuant to State statute, ten percent (10%) of all tax revenue collected by the Prosecuting Attorney's office goes to the general revenue fund for Taney County for use on general county business. An additional ten percent (10%) of the amount collected is awarded to the Taney County Prosecuting Attorney for office operations.

Prosecuting delinquent taxes has been a priority of the Taney County Prosecuting Attorney's Office since Jeff Merrell took office in January of 2007. In response to this success Mr. Merrell stated, "I am grateful for the hard work of my staff the past eighteen months in prosecuting and collecting tax cases. As a community we all have to pay taxes, and I hope that our continued success is a deterrent to those individuals and businesses that choose not to meet their tax obligations to the State of Missouri."

For individuals and business owners, not meeting tax obligations to the State of Missouri can result in felony charges. For example, the felony of failure to pay state sales tax carries with it a range of punishment of one (1) day to one (1) year in the County jail, two (2) to five (5) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, or a fine not to exceed ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars. In addition, the felony of failure to pay employer withholding taxes carries a range of punishment in Missouri of one (1) day to one (1) year in the County jail, two (2) to five (5) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, and/or a fine not to exceed ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars.

**MAIN OFFICE: (417) 546-7260 | FAX: (417) 546-2376**

**BAD CHECKS: (417) 546-7261 | FAX: (417) 546-3184**

**VICTIM/WITNESS: (417) 546-7263 | CHILD SUPPORT: (417) 546-7264**