

# Is Your Township Receiving its BMV License Tax?

What do 99 percent of you reading this article have in common? You drive a vehicle. In order to drive in Ohio, you must pay an annual license fee. A portion of the license plate tax is returned to townships for use in road repairs and maintenance.

Remind your township residents that before renewing their vehicle registration, they should double check to make sure the township where they reside is listed. If they renew their license plates by mail or via a third party, such as a leasing company, they should make sure the township is designated as the recipient of those tax dollars. If your residents do not specifically designate the township as the area where they live, the tax money will go to their mailing address, usually the nearest municipality.



A few years ago, the Ohio Department of Public Safety instituted a new computer program that helps alleviate some

concern over this issue. The computer program uses GPS technology to locate the residence of those applying for motor vehicle registrations.

As an elected official, you may request through the Department of Public Safety - BMV that a monthly or bi-monthly report be sent to your township to determine how many residents are actually reporting their township residency and paying the license tax. The report can also help you figure out how many residents are not paying the tax to your township, rather to a neighboring political subdivision. A couple ways to promote this tax is to publish a notice in your township newsletter or on your township Web site, or contact your local BMV and request to post a flyer to inform township residents to specify the township as their place of residence rather than their mailing address.