

Rules and Regulations

1. Registration

Registration will begin 30 minutes before the stated start time unless otherwise noted. No bids will be accepted unless the bidder has registered and received a pre-numbered bid card. A Driver's license, passport, or other state issued I.D. must be presented in order to receive a bid card.

2. Properties Offered

A. Overview

"**Foreclosing Governmental Unit**" ("FGU") is a term used by the Michigan tax foreclosure statute and is typically the office of the County Treasurer in the county where the offered property is located.

Unless otherwise noted, the "Seller" is the County Treasurer, acting as the "FGU".

The attached list of parcels has been approved for sale at public auction and each is identified by a sale unit number. The Seller reserves the right to pull parcels from the sale at any time prior to the auction.

According to state statutes, **ALL PRIOR** liens (other than certain DEQ liens and other limited exceptions), encumbrances and taxes **are cancelled** by Circuit Court Order. The FGU has attempted to include in the minimum bid, liens that have accrued since foreclosure, such as nuisance or water bills; **all other outstanding bills since foreclosure are the responsibility of the buyer.** These properties are subject to any state, county, or local zoning or building ordinances. The FGU does not guarantee the usability or access to any of these lands.

B. Know What You Are Buying

It is the **responsibility of the prospective purchaser to DO HIS OR HER OWN RESEARCH** as to the suitability of any offered property for any intended purpose. The FGU makes no warranty, guaranty or representation concerning, but not limited to, the merchantability of title, boundary lines, location of improvements, easements or right to access by public street, utility presence or location, or any other physical, structural, or legal condition.

Prospective buyers should, prior to the auction, **personally visit and inspect any offered property** they wish to purchase. However, prior to purchase at the auction, **STRUCTURES MAY NOT BE ENTERED** without the **WRITTEN PERMISSION** of the FGU. Some structures may be occupied and occupants should not be disturbed.

C. Reservation of Reverter

It is an express condition of sale, and deeds will contain a reverter clause that prohibits future severing of the mineral rights (if any) or splitting the parcel sold into smaller units which do not meet zoning requirements for minimum lot size or dimension. In the event of violation of this deed restriction, the property will revert to the FGU without refund.

3. Bidding

A. Overview

Generally, each sale unit will be offered separately and in the order appearing on the attached list. Sales are typically conducted both online and live on-site, simultaneously. The sale will be awarded to the individual bidding the highest amount equal to or greater than the starting bid by either method. Typically, the auctioneer will make available a list of parcels prior-to-sale and will provide an opportunity for on-site bidders to designate "parcels of interest" prior to the start of the sale. The auctioneer may skip over those parcels upon which no party has placed an online bid or designated as a parcel of interest prior to the start of the sale. **Parcels that do not have online bids and that have not been designated as parcels of interest prior to the start of the sale and in the manner prescribed by the auctioneer are not guaranteed to be offered.** The auctioneer, in their sole discretion, may offer a second request round of unsold parcels after the first round of bidding has been completed at the minimum bid sale only. Such second request round will be available to those online and on-site bidders as may be in attendance at that time.

B. Starting Bid Price

The starting bid prices are shown on the list included in the sale book. At auctions with a minimum bid, no sales can be made for less than the starting price indicated. The starting bid for no-minimum-bid sales will be at the discretion of the FGU or auctioneer.

However, any person who held an interest in a property offered for sale at the time a judgment of foreclosure was entered against such property **must pay at least minimum bid** for such property even if purchased at a no-minimum auction.

C. Bid Increments

Bids will **only** be accepted in the following increments:

<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Increment</u>
\$100 to \$999	\$ 50.00
\$1000 to \$9999	\$ 100.00
Over \$10,000	\$ 250.00

Floor bidders **MUST** bid in the same increments as online and absentee bidders. **We will not accept irregular bid increments** in fairness to online and absentee bidders.

D. Eligible Bidders

Any person who meets the following requirements may register as a bidder and receive a pre-numbered bid card:

- The person does not directly or indirectly hold more than a *de minimus* legal interest in any property with delinquent property taxes which is located in the county in which the person intends to purchase property.
- The person is not directly or indirectly responsible for any unpaid civil fines for a violation of any ordinance, including but not limited to any ordinance authorized by section 4I of The Home Rule City Act, 1909 PA 279, as amended, MCL 117.4I, in the local tax collection unit in which the person intends to purchase property.
- The person has not been banned or otherwise excluded by the FGU from participation in the public sale.

Any person unable to attend the sale can be represented at the sale by an agent or other representative with authority to bid and otherwise represent the person. However, any party utilizing an agent to bid on their behalf must still meet the above listed requirements. **The registered bidder is legally and financially responsible for all parcels bid upon whether acting on their own behalf or as the agent of another.**

E. Absentee Bidding

Absentee bids will be accepted in increments up to the amount that you pre-approve. Absentee bids require a \$1,000 pre-authorization on a major credit card or a \$1,000 deposit before the bid will be accepted. Absentee bids must be submitted 48 hours prior to the date of the auction by calling 1-800-259-7470. An absentee bid form is also available on www.tax-sale.info.

F. Online Bidding

On-line bidding will be available on the day of the auction at www.tax-sale.info.

G. Bids are Binding

An oral bid accepted at public auction is a legal and binding contract to purchase. No sealed bids will be accepted and the FGU reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

H. Attempts to Bypass These Rules and Regulations

The FGU and auctioneer reserve the right to reject the bids of any bidder who appears to be acting on behalf of another person who is ineligible to bid on their own.

4. Terms of Sale

A. Payment

- **Live On-Site Bidders**
 - **The full purchase price must be paid in full on the day of the sale, within half an hour of the end of the Auction.** No purchases can be made on a time-payment plan.
 - **NO CASH** will be accepted.
 - If the total purchase price is **less than \$1,000.00**, full payment may be made by certified check, personal check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
 - If the total purchase price is **greater than \$1,000.00**, a portion of the total purchase price must be paid by **certified funds** as follows:
 - If the total purchase price is **greater than \$1,000.00 but less than \$50,000.00**, **the first \$1,000.00 must be paid in certified funds.**
 - If the total purchase price is **\$50,000.00 or greater**, **the first \$5,000.00 must be paid in certified funds.**
 - **Any remaining balance** beyond the required certified funds may be paid by certified check, personal check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
- **Online & Absentee Bidders**
 - **The full purchase price must be paid in full WITHIN 5 DAYS OF THE SALE.** Payment may be made by certified funds, money order, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or wire transfer. No purchases can be made on a time-payment plan.
 - Online and absentee bidding require a \$1,000 pre-authorization on a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit card or a \$1,000 deposit before any bids will be accepted. Buyer's failure to consummate an online or absentee purchase will result in the forfeiture of this \$1,000.

The full purchase price consists of the final bid price *plus* a buyer's premium of 10% of the bid price, any outstanding taxes due on the property including associated fees and penalties, and a \$10.00 deed recording fee. **Any portion of the purchase price paid by credit card will be assessed an additional fee of 2.75%.**

B. Refund Checks

In some instances it may be necessary to refund to a buyer some or all of the payment tendered by such buyer. This can occur, for example, when a buyer tenders certified funds in an amount greater than their total obligation or if the sale is cancelled under any provision of these Rules and Regulations. Refund checks will be processed and mailed to buyer within approximately ten days of the time such refund becomes due to buyer. Buyer shall cash such refund check within 90 days of the date listed on such refund check. If buyer fails to cash such refund check within 90 days, such refund check shall become void and buyer shall forfeit any refunded amount.

C. Dishonored Payment

A buyer whose payment is dishonored for any reason will forfeit any purchase price paid as follows:

- A buyer whose total purchase price was less than \$1,000.00 will forfeit any portion of the total purchase price tendered and not dishonored including any credit card chargebacks which are successfully reversed by Seller.
- A buyer whose total purchase price was greater than \$1,000.00 will forfeit that portion of their total purchase price which was required to be tendered in certified funds as required by part 4A above.

Furthermore, the FGU may seek to prosecute any buyer whose payment is dishonored or who fails to consummate a purchase.

Any buyer who fails to consummate a purchase will be banned from bidding at all future land auctions. The venue for litigation or arbitration resulting from any disputes or matters involving or arising out of bidding or purchases, whether online or on-site, shall be fixed as Kalamazoo County in the State of Michigan.

The buyer's premium is not subject to any broker fees. There are no co-brokerage or other fees or rebates available.

D. Eligible Buyers

In order to take title to purchased property, each party that will be listed on the deed must meet **ALL of the following requirements at the time their winning bid is accepted:**

- i. The party does not directly or indirectly hold more than a *de minimus* legal interest in any property with delinquent property taxes which is located in the county in which the purchased property is located
- ii. The party is not directly or indirectly responsible for any unpaid civil fines for a violation of any ordinance, including but not limited to any ordinance authorized by section 4I of The Home Rule City Act, 1909 PA 279, as amended, MCL 117.4I, in the local tax collection unit in which the purchased property is located.
- iii. The party is not purchasing, for less than minimum bid, any property in which the party held an interest at the time a judgment of foreclosure was entered against such property nor is the party purchasing property, for less than minimum bid, on behalf of any other party who held such an interest.

At the time payment is tendered after the auction, the buyer will be required to execute an affidavit affirming, **under penalty of perjury**, that each party that the buyer desires to have listed on the deed to purchased property meets the above requirements.

The FGU **will not issue a deed** and the sale will be canceled if the buyer did not meet the above requirements at the time their bid was accepted, the buyer fails to execute this affidavit, or if any affirmations made in this affidavit are untrue. If the FGU is forced to cancel any sale due to the buyer's noncompliance with this provision, the buyer will **forfeit the first \$350 paid** on each parcel and any buyer's premium paid as liquidated damages for breach of contract by the buyer. Furthermore, the FGU may pursue **CRIMINAL PERJURY CHARGES** against any buyer who makes a false affirmation on the affidavit required under this or any other provision of these Rules and Regulations.

E. Sale to Entities

In order to ensure that individuals do not utilize legal entities to circumvent the sale and ownership restrictions contained in MCL 211.78m(2), the FGU will only sell property to legal entities under certain circumstances. Any buyer desiring to deed a purchased property to a legal entity must disclose the name and address of all officers, shareholders, partners, members, or other parties, regardless of title, who own any portion of that entity. However, such disclosure will not be required if one or more of the following exceptions are applicable:

- The Entity held a prior recorded interest in each purchased property.
- The Entity is a division, agency, or instrumentality of federal, state, or local government.
- The Entity is a Homeowners Association, Condo Association, or other such organization that exercises control over each purchased property.
- The Entity is a publicly traded company listed on a national securities exchange.
- The Entity is a nonprofit corporation and is qualified as tax exempt under IRC §501.

At the time payment is tendered after the auction, any buyer desiring to deed a purchased property to a legal entity will be required to execute an affidavit affirming, **under penalty of perjury**, that the entity is exempt from disclosure under one of the five exceptions listed above, or in the event that no exception is applicable, the names and addresses of all parties owning any portion of that legal entity.

F. Cancellation Policy

The FGU reserves the right **TO CANCEL ANY SALE, AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON** prior to the issuance of the deed.

G. Property Transfer Affidavit

It is the responsibility of the buyer to file a **Property Transfer Affidavit** with the *Assessor for the city or township* where the property is located **within 45 days of the transfer**. If it is not timely filed, a **penalty of \$5/day (maximum \$200) applies**. The information on this Property Transfer Affidavit is NOT CONFIDENTIAL.

5. Purchase Receipts

Successful bidders at the sale will be issued a receipt for their purchases upon payment. This receipt does not convey an interest in title to the purchased property unless and until a deed has been issued and recorded. Buyers will be entitled to deeds for the property descriptions identified by the sale unit numbers noted on the receipt unless the sale is cancelled under these Rules and Regulations or other statutory authority.

6. Title Being Conveyed

Quit-claim deeds will be issued conveying **only such title as received by the FGU through tax foreclosure**. Title insurance companies may or may not issue title insurance on properties purchased at this sale. The FGU makes no representation as to the availability of title insurance and the **unavailability of title insurance is not grounds for reconveyance to the FGU**. The purchaser may incur legal costs for Quiet Title Action to satisfy the requirements of title insurance companies in order to obtain title insurance.

7. Special Assessments

Special assessment installments through the most recent tax year are included in the starting bids. We have identified those parcels with known special assessments with a note on the parcel detail page. Parcels sold are subject to property taxes for the entire current tax year, as well as current and future installments of any outstanding bonded assessments. All bidders should contact the appropriate city, village, or township offices to determine if there are any outstanding bonded assessments for future tax years on the properties being offered.

8. Possession of Property

A. Possession Pending Deed Delivery

It is recommended that the buyer DOES NOT take physical possession of any purchased property until a deed has been executed and delivered to the buyer. The buyer risks financial loss for any improvements or investments made on purchased property *before the delivery of a deed* in the event that the Foreclosing Governmental Unit exercises their right to cancel the sale. Until the buyer receives a deed, no activities should be conducted on the site other than:

I. Securing the Property

Buyer should take steps to protect their equity in purchased property by **securing vacant structures against entry and obtaining (homeowners) insurance for occupied property**. Buyer is responsible for contacting local units of government **to prevent possible demolition of structures situated on purchased property**.

II. Assessing Potential Contamination

Buyer may immediately wish to conduct a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) to assess the condition of potentially contaminated properties. More information about BEAs can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311_4109_4212---,00.html

B. Occupied Property

Buyers will be responsible for all procedures and legal requirements for conducting evictions. Occupants of purchased property should be treated as tenants holding over under an expired lease. This means that legal eviction and/or possession proceedings will be necessary to effectuate control over such property.

9. Conditions

The purchaser accepts the premises in its present "as is" condition, and releases the Foreclosing Governmental Unit and employees and agents from all liability whatsoever arising from any condition of the premises, whether now known or subsequently discovered, including but not limited to all claims based on environmental contamination of the premises.

A person who acquires property that is contaminated (a "facility" pursuant to Section 20201(1)(1) of Natural Resources and Environmental Act (NREPA), 1994 P.A. 451, as amended) as a result of release(s) of a hazardous substance(s) may become liable for all costs of cleaning up the property and any other properties impacted by the release(s). Liability may be imposed upon the person acquiring the property even in the absence of any personal responsibility for, or knowledge of, the release. Protection from such liability may be obtained by conducting a Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) as provided for under Section 20126(1) (c) of NREPA. However, the BEA must be conducted prior to or within 45 days of the earliest date of purchase or occupancy of the property. Persons who acquire contaminated property may have "due care" obligations under Section 20107a of NREPA even if they conduct a BEA and are not liable for the contamination.

Pursuant to part 201 of NREPA, the person(s) responsible for an activity causing a release at the property is obligated to pursue response activities at the property. Consequently, the non-lieable purchaser may be required to provide access to the liable party to conduct response activities at the property in the future. Section 20116 of the NREPA requires that a person who has knowledge that their property is contaminated provide a written notice to the purchaser or other person to whom the property is transferred which discloses the general nature and extent of the release. Additional disclosure obligations may also apply at the time the property, or an interest in the property, is transferred. Accordingly, the Foreclosing Governmental Unit recommends that a person who is interested in acquiring property at this auction contact an attorney or an environmental consultant for advice prior to the acquisition of any property that may be contaminated.

10. Deeds

A. Deed Execution and Delivery

All monies collected will remain in escrow for a period not to exceed 20 days. Once payment is cleared and verified, funds will be disbursed to the FGU and deeds will be executed and recorded as required by law. The FGU will deliver the deeds to the Register of Deeds for recording and remit them to the buyer after recording is complete. IT CAN TAKE 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR DEEDS TO ARRIVE. PLEASE BE PATIENT.

B. Restrictive Covenants

Some counties sell properties with deed covenants that will attach to the property. These parcels will be noted online, along with the terms being required. **Please carefully review the information for each specific parcel to make sure you understand the terms of sale.**

11. Property Taxes & Other Fees

All property taxes and associated fees that have accrued on or after April 1 in the year that a property is auctioned must be paid **at the time of checkout** after the auction along with the final bid price, buyer's premium, and deed recording fee.

Furthermore, please understand that the **buyer is responsible for all other fees and liens that accrue against a property on or after April 1 in the year that a property is auctioned.** These items are not prorated. They include, but are not limited to municipal utility or ordinance fees, and condo or property owner association fees or dues. This can also include demolition and other nuisance abatement costs. These fees and expenses **are not collected at the auction** and must be paid by the buyer after taking title to any purchased property which is subject to such fees and expenses.

12. Other

A. Personal Property

Personal property (*items not attached to buildings and lands such as furnishings, automobiles, etc.*) located on offered property or within structures situated on offered property was not taxed as part of the real estate, does not belong to the FGU, and is not sold to the buyer of the real estate in this transaction. You are advised to contact former owners of any purchased property and provide them an opportunity to reclaim contents. A certified and first class mail notice to their last known address is strongly advised.

Mobile Homes may be titled separately and considered *personal property*. It is the buyer's responsibility to determine if an Affidavit of Affixture of Manufactured Home has been executed and recorded as outlined in MCL 125.2330i.

B. Mineral Rights

You will receive any and all title that the FGU obtains via their tax foreclosure through a quit-claim deed. If the owner of the surface rights to the property also owned the mineral rights, those will become part of your title interest. However this will be subject to the rights of any outstanding leaseholders of oil, gas, mineral or storage rights. You would be obligated to honor the balance of any remaining lease (with automatic renewals if so written) but the royalty payments would be payable to you. However if the mineral rights have been severed (split from the surface rights) and are owned by a third party, they have not been foreclosed by the FGU and are not included in the mineral rights conveyed to you. In either instance, the leaseholder still has the right to explore for and/or extract minerals under the terms of any outstanding agreement.

C. Applicability of These Rules and Regulations

All sales are subject to these Rules and Regulations, all terms and conditions printed in sale booklets, posted at the physical sale location, online at <http://www.tax-sale.info>, and made verbally at the location of sale on the day of the auction. Furthermore, additional Terms of Sale are included on the printed auction receipt given to the buyer at the time of checkout. In the event of a conflict between these Rules and Regulations and the Terms of Sale printed on the auction receipt, those Terms of Sale on the auction receipt shall be controlling.

These Rules and Regulations are subject to change at any time and should be reviewed frequently.

NOTE: Please review the terms at the top of each online catalog and the addendum pages in the printable sale books for county-specific purchase terms. Failure to follow the specific rules posted for each county could result in a cancellation of the sale and the retention of part or all of the purchase proceeds by the FGU.