MARATHON COUNTY POWTS PROGRAM FEE

In 2025, Marathon County implemented an annual POWTS (Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System) Maintenance Program Fee that is reflected on your annual tax bill. The 2026 fee is $6.18. This fee helps fund the county's POWTS Maintenance Program, which ensures septic systems are properly maintained and operating as required by state law. This program plays an important role in protecting our lakes, rivers, and drinking water, supporting Marathon County's vision to be the healthiest, safest, and most prosperous County in Wisconsin.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q **What is a POWTS?**

A POWTS stands for Private Onsite Waste Treatment System. It is more commonly referred to as a Septic System.

Q **What types of septic systems does this fee apply too?**

A This fee is applied per Septic System on the property, this includes Holding Tank, Mound System, Inground pressure, At-Grade, Conventional system, Privy, Etc.

Q **Why does my bill show more than $6.18?**

A The annual POWTS Maintenance fee is assessed per septic system. Example if your property has 2 septic systems you will be assessed a fee of $12.36

Q **Who qualifies for a refund?**

A If your property does not contain a septic system and you were charged in error, you may qualify for a refund. Please note that verification may be required before the refund can be issued.

Q **Can I choose not to pay if I plan to request a refund?**

A No. The POWTS Maintenance Fee is included as a special charge on your property tax bill. This fee is paid first when you make a tax payment. If it isn't paid, your bill will show a past due balance. Even if you've requested a refund, it's important to pay the full amount to avoid delinquent taxes and interest and penalty charges.

Q **How do I request a refund?**

A To submit a refund request please call the Marathon County POWTS Maintenance line at 715-261-6040. If you are directed to voicemail, please leave your name, and number. A staff member will get back to you by the next business day to help you through the process.

Q **If the property that has a septic system is tax exempt (example: churches and town halls), do I still need to pay the fee?**

A Yes, this fee is a special charge, like garbage service fees and is not a tax.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

MARATHON COUNTY

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https://www.marathoncounty.gov/powts

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