

Yakima County Treasurer

A Report to Our Citizens Fiscal Year 2017

Ilene Thomson, Yakima County Treasurer

How the Office Operates

The County Treasurer's Office acts as the bank for the County departments, school districts, fire districts, special purpose districts and other units of local government, by receipting, disbursing, investing, and accounting for the funds of each of these entities. The Treasurer's Office is also charged with the collection of various taxes that benefit a wide range of governmental functions.

Some of the major responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office is as follows:

- Receipting and Accounting of Revenue
- Billing and Collection of Taxes and Assessments
- Disbursement of Funds
- Debt Management
- Cash and Investment Portfolio Management
- Banking Services
- Real Property/Mobile Home Transfers
- Real and Personal Property Foreclosure
- Property Tax Adjustments and Refunds

Demographics	Yakima County
Estimated Population	253,000
Median Household Income	\$44,749
Median Age	32.5
Parcel Count	107,557
Number of Population Employed	101,169

Source: DataUSA

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Mission Statement

To prudently handle and manage the public funds that have been entrusted to our care, to serve the taxpayers and our business partners with respect and professionalism, and to provide accurate financial reporting services.



Contact Us

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2017 Accomplishments

Assisted multiple county departments with the implementation of accepting debit/credit cards and e-check payments through the Treasurer's Office third-party vendor. The result of this is expedient services available for the taxpayers, as well as a lower convenience fee rate compared with other third-party vendors.

Consolidated several Yakima County departmental bank accounts under the Treasurer's Office banking services contract to reduce banking services fees and implement additional fraud prevention.

Recovered over \$43,000 in sales tax audits for Yakima County by tracking various major construction projects in the Yakima valley and identifying inconsistencies in location reporting.

Installed a secure drive-up drop box, available 24/7 to allow added efficiency for taxpayers to make property tax payments.



Selected Performance Measures

The receipting data below shows the various payment options the Treasurer's Office has available for taxpayers to make their annual property tax payments.

Receipts Processed **	2017	2016	2015
Mortgage Company	56,970	56,229	55,689
By Mail	41,468	43,027	43,826
In Person *	19,098	19,277	19,598
Credit Card/Debit Card/E-Check *	6,824	7,576	6,636
ACH Debit	438	472	502

*includes payment for Real Estate Excise Tax affidavits

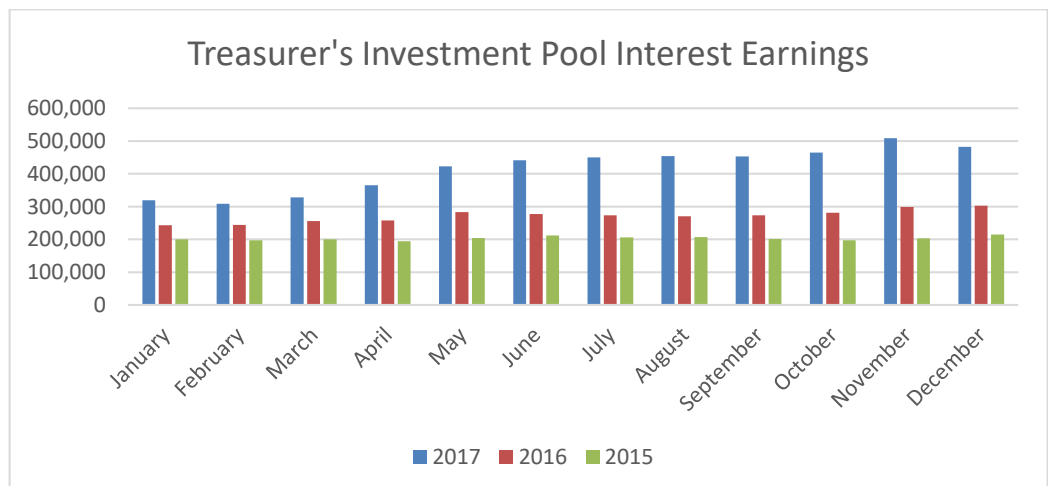
**receipts may include payment for multiple parcels

Below is the data on selected Treasurer's Office services provided in the previous fiscal years. The amount of production completed annually varies depending on the citizens within Yakima County, as well as the multiple district and departments that we service.

Governmental Activities	2017	2016	2015
Property Tax Record Adjustments	2,776	2,024	4,535
Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits	7,391	7,374	7,082
General Deposits	10,857	10,436	10,700
Investment Transactions	2,900	3,027	3,039
Property Tax Refunds	2,400	2,323	2,253

County Treasurer's Investment Pool Portfolio

The comparison below of the Treasurer's Investment Pool (TIP) Interest Earnings shows the increased performance of the TIP in generating additional revenue for the districts and departments within Yakima County. The amount generated in 2017 was \$4,995,628 compared to \$3,261,656 in 2016; an increase of earnings in the amount of \$1,733,972.

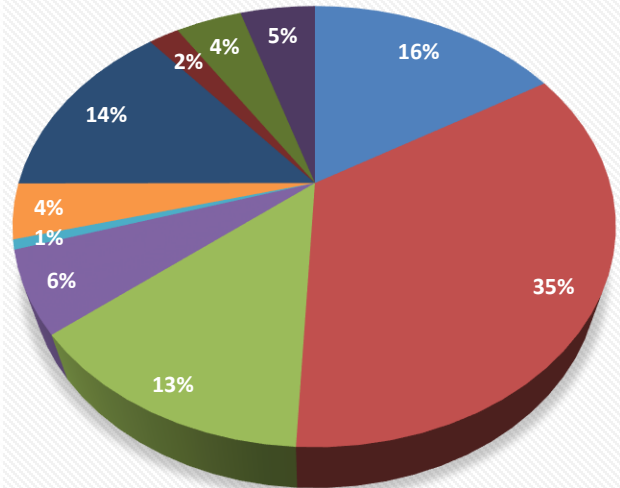
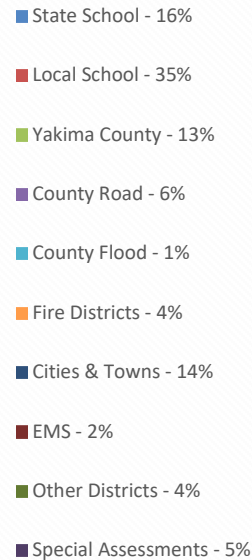


Distribution of Property Tax and Assessments

Taxes & Assessments	2017	2016
State School	\$33,567,950	\$35,900,805
Local School	70,856,837	69,375,411
Yakima County	27,483,848	26,934,412
County Road	12,356,945	11,863,301
County Flood	1,469,978	1,435,238
Fire Districts	8,309,208	8,080,774
Cities & Towns	28,697,159	28,162,823
EMS	4,042,016	3,944,654
Other Districts	8,764,894	8,476,320
Special Assessments	9,932,934	8,221,397
Total	\$205,481,769	\$202,395,135

Other Districts: Library, Port and Park Districts

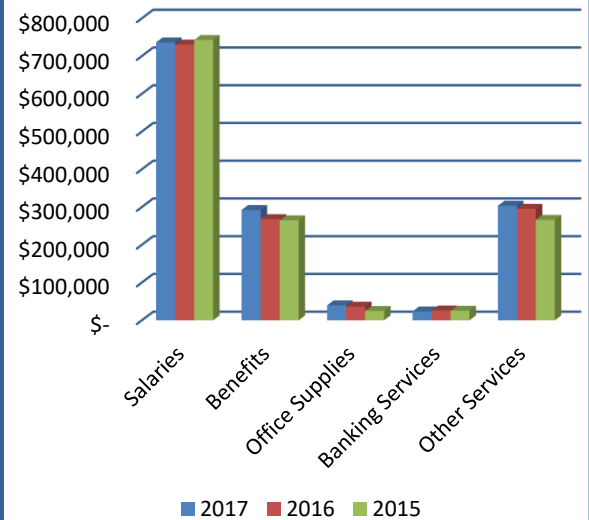
Special Assessment Districts: Irrigation, Conservation, Mosquito, Diking, Drainage, Weed, Stormwater, Horticulture, County Road and Local Improvement Districts and State Forest Patrol Assessments



Property Tax and Assessment Collection (includes current year and delinquent taxes)				
YEAR	Beginning Outstanding	Total Collection	Ending Outstanding	Percentage of Collection
2017	\$212,706,949	\$205,481,768	\$7,225,181	96.60%
2016	\$209,893,553	\$202,395,135	\$7,498,418	96.43%
2015	\$204,891,595	\$197,270,939	\$7,620,656	96.28%
2014	\$204,436,310	\$196,307,679	\$8,128,631	96.02%

Receipting Activity	2017	2016
General Deposits	\$856,391,184	\$774,232,668
Property Taxes & Assessments	205,481,769	202,395,135
Interest & Penalties on Property Taxes & Assessments	1,804,292	1,808,936
Real Estate Excise Taxes	17,052,522	13,794,866
Investment Maturities	798,250,355	695,810,598
Investment Interest	4,839,130	3,253,220
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,931,550	3,797,010
Total	\$1,887,750,802	\$1,695,092,433

Yakima County Treasurer's Office Major Expenses



*Other Services include: Armored car, technology services, courthouse security, postage, telephones, advertising, rent, insurance, repairs and maintenance.

Independent Audit: The Yakima County Treasurer's Office does not issue separate financial statements; however, the Treasurer's Office contributes to a major portion of the analysis and statements included in the Yakima County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The 2017 audit report on Yakima County's CAFR has not been issued as of the date of this report. Complete financial information can be found at Yakima County's website: <http://www.yakimacounty.us/>

Upcoming in 2018



We want to hear from you
Do you like this report? Would you like to see other information included? Please let us know by contacting our Accounting Division at treasacc@co.yakima.wa.us.



Implementation of Investment Software

The Yakima County Treasurer's Office recently selected a new investment software, Sympro, which will be implemented in the summer of 2018. As with any software implementation, there will be required testing, validation, and training that will consume a significant amount of resources during this conversion. The benefits associated with the implementation of this software will be updated reporting functions for the districts and departments, streamlined investment allocation processes, and a reduction of data entry by the Treasurer's Office staff.

State School – Part Two Levy

Taxpayers statewide will experience an increase to their 2018 taxes primarily due to the addition of the State School – Part Two Levy, which was authorized by the 2017 Legislature in Engrossed House Bill 2242. The bill provided additional funding for the state's basic education program (McCleary Decision). The increase to taxpayer's property taxes will create additional challenges for the Treasurer's Office in 2018 in the time spent educating the taxpayers behind the reason for this increase. For further information regarding this bill, please visit the Department of Revenue website at www.dor.wa.gov/FundingEd.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System

In 2017, Yakima County hired a third-party advisory firm, Plante Moran, to evaluate and provide recommendations based on the county's current general ledger system, Cayenta, which has been in production for 25 years. The firm identified several areas that the county would benefit in streamlining processes and creating efficiencies that have been developed in various ERP systems. The County's next step in this project will be gathering a panel of process experts, as well as the county executive team, to preview various demonstrations from selected vendors to find the best fit for Yakima County.

Creating Efficiencies for Taxpayers

The Treasurer's Office continues their focus on creating additional ways for taxpayers to make their property tax payments with convenience. The addition of the secure drive-up drop box, available 24/7, has received positive reviews from taxpayers, in addition to taxpayer's ability to make property tax payments from the convenience of their home, either online or via phone. This will remain a focus throughout 2018 as we continue seeing an increase in the number of taxpayers registered for eNotices, our electronic billing system, as well as the continued increase in online property tax payments.

