



Yakima County Treasurer

A Report to Our Citizens

Fiscal Year 2019

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	255,950
Median Household Income	\$47,500
Median Age	32.7
Parcel Count	108,716
Number of Population Employed	103,990

Sources: DataUSA/WA OFM

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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

128 N Second St., Room 115, Yakima

PO Box 22530, Yakima WA 98907

www.yakimacounty.us/treasurer

(509) 574-2800 Tax Information

(509) 574-2780 Accounting Division

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Selected Performance Measures

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

Receipts Processed **	2019	2018	2017
Mortgage Company	57,960	57,449	56,970
By Mail	40,097	40,889	41,468
In Person *	22,413	18,862	19,098
Credit Card/Debit Card/E-Check *	8,230	7,503	6,824
ACH Debit	399	416	438

*includes payment for Real Estate Excise Tax affidavits

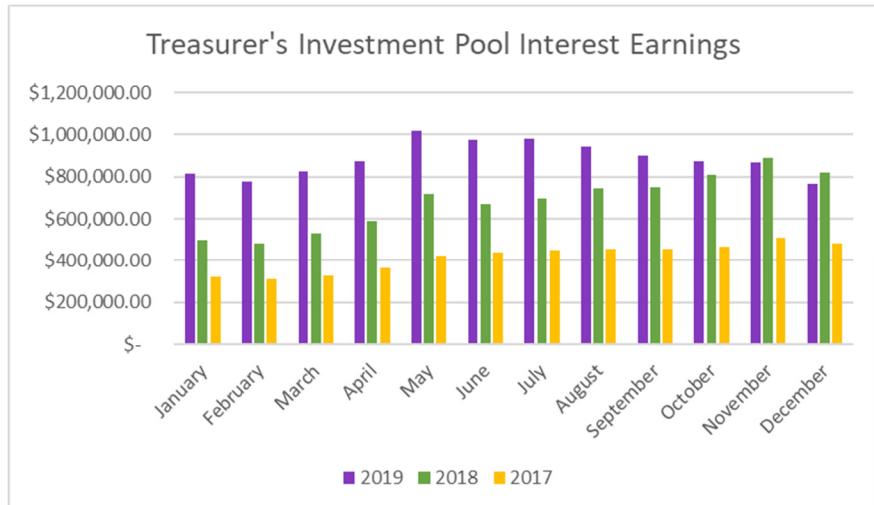
**receipts may include payment for multiple parcels

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	2019	2018	2017
Property Tax Record Adjustments	2,320	2,637	2,776
Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits	7,008	7,156	7,391
General Deposits	10,820	10,864	10,857
Property Tax Refunds	2,105	2,286	2,400

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 2019 was \$10,607,556 compared to \$8,203,121 in 2018; an increase of earnings in the amount of \$2,404,435.



2019 Accomplishments

In the last 5 years, the Treasurer's Office Foreclosure Division has achieved an 80% reduction in the number of properties being foreclosed upon in the Yakima Valley.

ESSB 5998 made changes to the real estate excise tax program. In preparation for the January 1, 2020 implementation, extensive testing and auditing of software, forms, and procedures were undertaken in the Treasurer's Office to ensure a seamless transition.

The Yakima County Treasurer's Office facilitated The Yakima County Health District's ability to accept credit and debit card payments through the County's third-party provider. This is an important benefit to the public when conducting business with the Yakima County Health District in person and online.

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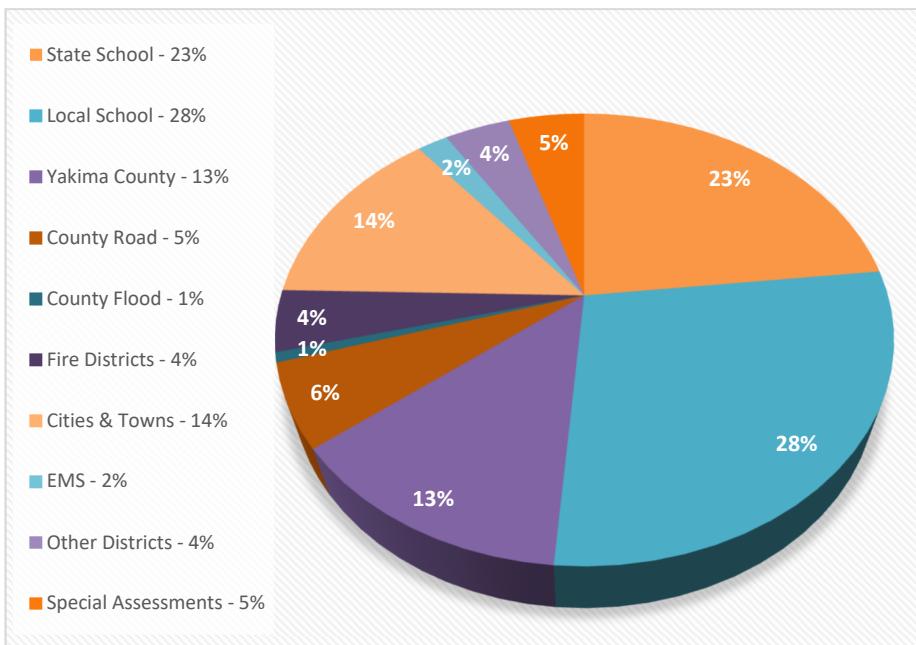
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Distribution of Property Tax and Assessments

Taxes & Assessments	2019	2018
State School	\$51,127,086	\$51,893,996
Local School	61,870,597	73,028,412
Yakima County	28,807,423	27,956,685
County Road	13,085,645	12,672,130
County Flood	1,546,155	1,497,769
Fire Districts	9,672,594	8,546,185
Cities & Towns	30,339,598	29,247,391
EMS	4,251,699	4,118,572
Other Districts	9,106,052	8,809,329
Special Assessments	10,522,454	10,156,527
Total	\$220,329,303	\$227,926,966

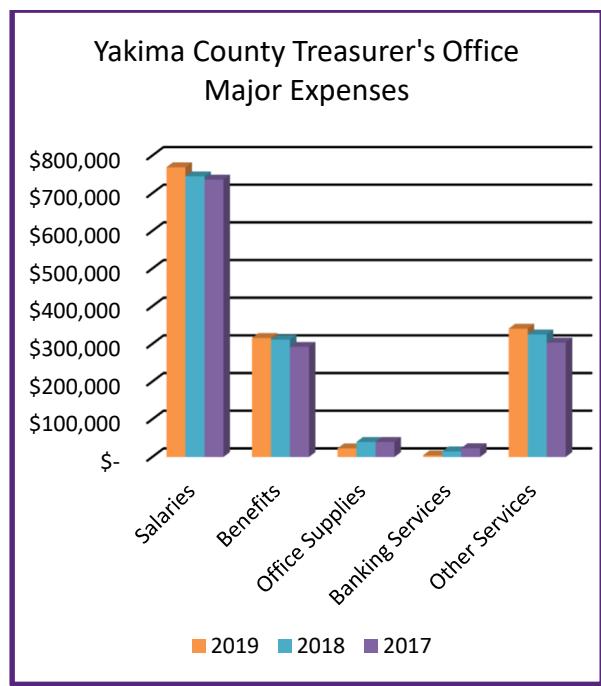
Other Districts: Library, Port and Park Districts

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



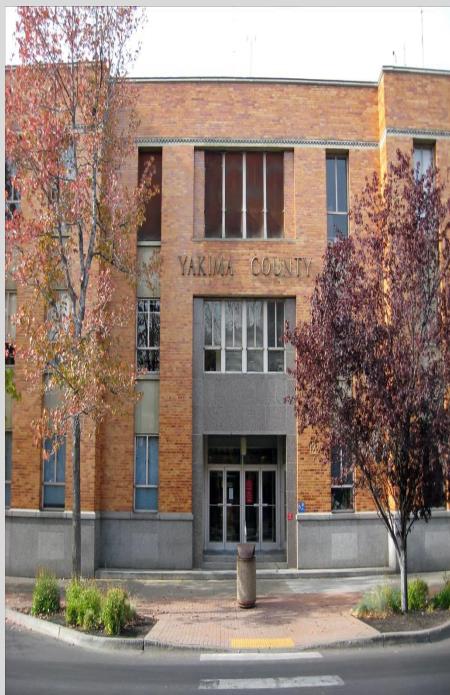
Property Tax and Assessment Collection (includes current year and delinquent taxes)				
YEAR	Beginning Outstanding	Total Collection	Ending Outstanding	Percentage of Collection
2019	\$227,570,710	\$220,329,303	\$7,241,407	96.82%
2018	\$235,165,528	\$227,926,966	\$7,238,562	96.92%
2017	\$212,706,949	\$205,481,768	\$7,225,181	96.60%
2016	\$209,893,553	\$202,395,135	\$7,498,418	96.43%

Receiving Activity	2019	2018
General Deposits	\$995,810,944	\$926,419,310
Property Taxes & Assessments	220,323,343	227,919,618
Interest & Penalties on Property Taxes & Assessments	1,732,201	1,987,253
Real Estate Excise Taxes	19,960,155	16,999,860
Investment Maturities	956,482,417	810,046,519
Investment Interest	10,531,732	7,885,243
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,445,314	4,632,446
Total	\$2,209,286,106	\$1,995,890,249



*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 2019 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>.



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.



Uncertainty in 2020

Yakima County Treasurer-COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 13, 2020, Yakima County proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in Yakima County as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a short period of time, COVID-19 had spread in Yakima County which necessitated more stringent guidance, in the form of a Stay at Home order, from Teresa Everson, Health Officer for the Yakima Health District. On March 24th Governor Inslee issued a Stay at Home order for all Washingtonians except to conduct or participate in essential activities and for employment in essential business services.

COVID-19 changed the way that many families and businesses were able to operate. Businesses were closed, people were out of jobs and children were not allowed to attend school. To respond to the economic impacts stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Yakima County Treasurer, Ilene Thomson encouraged early payments from those property owners who were financially able to pay first half or full year property taxes, to assist with funding essential services needed.

For those who were experiencing financial hardship, Thomson implemented two different payment plans for current year's taxes. Thomson stated, "It is a delicate balance trying to assist our property owners affected by this pandemic and to ensure our local government operations have funding to continue serving our community." Yakima County relies on property taxes to fund local services, and this includes essential services provided by the Cities, EMS, Sheriff and Police Departments, Fire Districts and County services like Public Health and Public Works to name just a few.

With the Treasurer's Office closed to the public, taxpayers were encouraged to explore the many alternative ways to conduct business with them. Taxes could be paid online, via the phone, deposited in the many secure drop box locations, including a drive-up drop box.

We will all remember this pandemic and how it changed our lives.