

# Office of the Okanogan County Treasurer

## A Report to Our Citizens

For Fiscal Year 2011

**Leah F. Mc Cormack, Okanogan County Treasurer**

3rd Addition January 2012



## About the Treasurer's Office

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### What do we do?

The County Treasurer acts as the "bank" for the county, school districts, fire districts, irrigation districts, hospital districts, cemetery districts and other units of local government. The Treasurer's office receipts, disburses, invests and accounts for the funds of these entities. The Treasurer is also charged with the collection of various taxes that benefit a wide range of governmental entities. Tax adjustments authorized by the Assessor's office or courts are also performed and refunds issued to the appropriate taxpayers. The Treasurer's office collects and distributes the real estate excise tax associated with the sale of real estate. Excess monies not currently being used by the county or various local governments are "pooled" for investment with the emphasis of insuring public monies are; safe and secure, available when needed, achieve the best rate of return after meeting the first two objectives.

### Mission Statement

**Provide the most reliable, efficient & cost effective service to the citizens and local governments of Okanogan County, Washington**

### How are we set up?

The Treasurer is a constitutional officer elected by the people for a four year term. This position is elected to provide independence from the legislative branch of the county (Board of County Commissioners) and independence from all the other various local governments that have the ability to levy taxes and assessments. This provides a separation from the branch of government responsible for levying taxes to the branch charged with collecting tax revenues. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining checks and balances between the various entities.

### How do we operate?

The office is organized into several different areas including the Tax Collection, Tax Adjustment, and Accounting Department that serve to properly segregate incompatible duties for effective internal controls. The Tax Collection Department is responsible for the collection of taxes, irrigation, and television assessments, and the processing of real estate excise tax on the sale of land, along with the legal process of real estate tax foreclosure. The Tax Adjustment Department is responsible for adjustments to taxes, Irrigation and television assessments, processing refunds, and review of the subsidiary accounts. The Accounting Department is responsible for the banking, daily account reconciliation, general receipts, investments, redemption of warrants (checks), and debt service.

### Core Values:

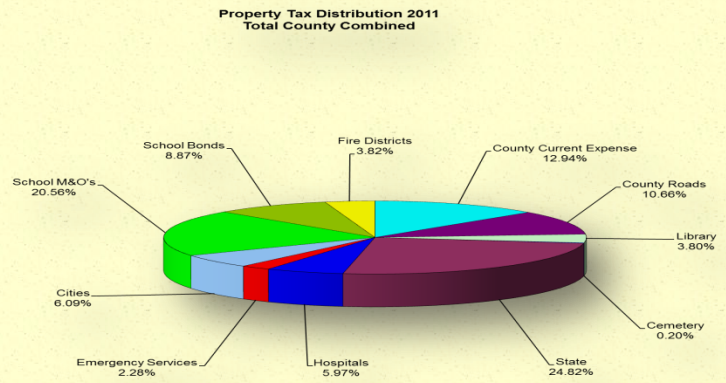
- Integrity
- Accuracy
- Reliability
- Accountability

<b>Full Time Employees</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Real Estate Parcels</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Operating Budget (2011)</b>	<b>\$372,522</b>

# Your Money

## Property Taxes

The County Treasurer collects property taxes from the taxpayers and then distributes the monies to all the various taxing authorities. We print and mail statements based on the data we receive from the County Assessor and other assessing authorities. This pie chart illustrates the amount of tax monies for collection in 2011. The Treasurer also collects "general receipts" of State shared revenues, fees, grants, irrigation assessments, and television assessments not accounted for in the pie chart.



**2011 Property Taxes \$37,878,963.00**

Total Investments on 12/31/2011 were \$33,813,240.01. The total amount of interest that the county received from these investments as of 12/31/2011 was \$186,622.20. We collect the irrigation assessments for Aeneas Lake, Alta Vista, Brewster Flat, Helensdale, Methow-Okanogan, Methow Valley, Okanogan, Pateros, Riverside Flood, Whitestone, Wolf Creek, and Wells Ranch. We also collect assessments for three Television and Communication districts. The county Treasurer's office continues to experience an increased demand each year for our services. Fortunately we have gained efficiencies that has enabled us to meet these challenges with the current level of staffing.

In addition to the budget, the Treasurer also has a revolving fund to help defray the cost associated with foreclosure of delinquent parcels and personal property. This fund does not receive tax revenues and is funded only by fees collected on the parcels in foreclosure.

## Increase On-Line Payments

Increasingly, people are paying their bills online. That option is available to Okanogan County taxpayers via the Treasurer's website at [www.okanogancounty.org/Treasurer](http://www.okanogancounty.org/Treasurer). This option allows the taxpayer to pay with a debit or credit card.

The credit card payment feature was requested by many taxpayers. Current state law does not allow the county to absorb any of the charges which is routinely done by merchants that are visited every day, thus the fees charged by the provider are paid for by the taxpayer. However, we are working on being able to accept debit/credit cards at our front counter, and hopefully that will be implemented in 2012. Regardless, this option has been well received by taxpayers and the frequency of credit card payments is rapidly growing.

## What's New in 2011?

In October 2011, we converted to a new tax & assessment software system. We also utilized this software for our general ledger by which we provide financial statements for all county funds, assessment districts, and junior taxing districts.

## Treasurer's Statement

This report was written to inform you what has been going on in your office that you have entrusted me to manage. It was written without governmental or technical language, but instead with the intent on conveying "just the facts". If there is something missing that you would find useful to know about the Treasurer's Office, please let me know. My contact information is below:

Best Regards,  
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