



Meredith R. Green, CPA Kitsap County Treasurer

614 Division Street, MS-32 • Port Orchard, WA 98366-4678

February 2012

Dear Taxpayer,

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Kitsap County Treasurer. We strive to provide excellent and efficient customer service to all taxpayers. Although we've had to reduce office hours, we've worked to enhance our online services, because this is one of the most efficient ways to serve you, and it is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I encourage you to look at your property tax statement [online](#) where you can pay your tax bill and also access information regarding your tax bill. By clicking on the "General Distribution" hyperlink, you can see historical information regarding your bill, the changes in your bill over time, and obtain district contact information.

From last year's letter, you may recall that we bill and collect for all [44 districts](#) in the county, including fire, libraries, ports, schools, parks and utilities, plus noxious weed and Surface and Storm Water Management (SSWM) assessments. Each district's annual budget is divided by the property values in the district, which establishes the *levy rate* for that particular district. Budget increases are limited to 1% of the previous year budget, plus an allowance for new construction, unless the voters approve a levy lid lift. For instance, the county *levy rate* is determined dividing the county budget by the value of all taxable properties in the county. The average decrease in property value county-wide was 4-6%, so if your property decreased more than that range, the county portion of your tax will decrease, and if your property value decreased less than 4-6%, the county portion of your tax bill will increase. The same methodology applies for each district on your tax bill.

Many of the fire and EMS districts are at the statutory levy rate, meaning that the levy rate may not exceed \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value for fire and \$0.50 for EMS. Thus, as property values decline, so do the taxes for those districts.

The [Central Kitsap School District](#) has a new \$10,950,000 capital projects levy passed by voters in 2011, and a small increase in a previously approved operations and maintenance levy, resulting in an average increase of 43% for district taxes in 2012, which follows a 17% decrease in 2011. The increase in district taxes over 2010 is 17%, including the capital projects and operations levies.

Bainbridge Island will see an increase of approximately 7% in [School District](#) taxes due to voter approved levies, which follows a 7% decrease in 2011 due to a one-time return of \$820,000 in 2006 bond proceeds to taxpayers. Island residents will have a decrease of approximately 7% in fire and EMS levies due to the expiration of a temporary levy lid lift. The [Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park District](#) had a scheduled increase for its bond funding, and the regular levy is at the statutory levy rate, so the overall increase is about 10%.

[City of Port Orchard](#) residents approved annexing to the [Regional Library](#), so residents will have a new tax for the Kitsap Regional Library, which was formerly paid to the City of Port Orchard. Due to this annexation as well as [South Kitsap Fire District 7](#), the City of Port Orchard's statutory rate was reduced, so residents will have a decrease in that tax.

Some Kingston area residents will have a new tax for the voter approved [Village Green Metropolitan Park District](#).

Please visit our website at www.kitsapgov.com/treas to view your individual property tax bill. In addition to the "General Distribution" information described above, you can also click underneath the Levy Code to obtain detail regarding the components that make up the levy rate for your particular parcel. Please remember that the assessed value is based on the Assessor's estimate of value as of January 1, 2011, which is 14 months ago. If you have questions regarding the assessed value of your property, please contact the Assessor's office at 360-337-7160 or www.kitsapgov.com/assr.

This year, we offer you the option to make monthly prepayments on your tax bill. We charge a small fee, similar to what I pay my insurance company, to cover the cost of administering the prepayment program. The tax due dates haven't changed, so the best time to enroll is in May, after you've paid your April 30 tax payment. To enroll in prepayments, please complete the [form](#) on our website, and mail it in with your tax payment, or call 360-337-4939. We also continue to offer the option to receive your [statement by email](#), which you can enroll in by completing the form on the reverse, or by selecting that option on our website.

Since taking office in 2010, I continue to focus on providing service to the citizens and districts as efficiently as possible. By providing taxpayers and the districts the option to receive information electronically, we save time, money and postage, plus you have access to more information. We've also changed many internal processes to store data electronically, which saves paper and provides quicker access to more personnel. This year, due to favorable credit markets, we were able to refinance debt at reduced interest rates, which will result in savings of \$2.5 million over the life of the debt. We will continually strive to efficiently collect and safeguard YOUR money.

I am truly honored to serve as your Kitsap County Treasurer. If you have any comments or suggestions, please stop by, call us at 360-337-7135, or email treasurer@co.kitsap.wa.us. We, as public employees, are here to serve you.

Regards,

Meredith Green and Staff

Selected District Contact Information

City of Bainbridge Island	www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us	(206) 780-8591
City of Bremerton	www.ci.bremerton.wa.us	(360) 473-5722
City of Poulsbo	www.cityofpoulsbo.com	(360) 779-3901
City of Port Orchard	www.cityofportorchard.us	(360) 876-4407
Bainbridge Island School District	www.bainbridge.wednet.edu	(206) 842-4714
Central Kitsap School District	www.cksd.wednet.edu	(360) 662-1610
North Kitsap School District	www.nkschools.org	(360) 779-8704
South Kitsap School District	www.skitsap.wednet.edu	(360) 874-7000
Kitsap Regional Library	www.krl.org	(360) 405-9158
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park District	www.biparks.org	(206) 842-2306
Village Green Metropolitan Park District	www.myvillagegreen.org	(360) 297-2845
Noxious Weed	http://county.wsu.edu/kitsap	(360) 307-4242
Surface and Storm Water Management (city residents, contact the city)	www.kitsapgov.com/sswm	(360) 337-5662

Email Enrollment or Change of Address

If you want to have your statements delivered by email or your MAILING ADDRESS has changed from the address shown on the enclosed tax statement(s), complete this form and return it with your payment, or mail it to us at 614 Division Street, MS-32, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

You may also make the changes by visiting our website

Note: Completing a change of address does not change legal ownership.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

_____ Name		
_____ Mailing Address		
_____ City	_____ State	_____ ZIP
_____ Email Address**		
_____ Phone Number (in case we have questions)		
_____ Date	_____ Owner's Signature	

List of all Account Numbers affected by this change*

*Refer to tax statement for Account/Parcel Numbers

**By providing my email address, I agree to receive tax statements and valuation notices via email.