



Meredith R. Green, CPA
Kitsap County Treasurer

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

Dear Taxpayer,

February 2018

Yes, most of us have a higher tax bill this year. And while you might have read about the changes in our local newspapers, I wanted to clearly explain the increase at the same time you received your statement. Read this letter on our website at <https://kitsapgov.com/treas> to access the links and your [property tax bill](#).

First, a reminder: The Treasurer serves as the bank for the County as well as all [43 junior taxing districts](#). We collect and distribute property taxes, process transactions, pay debt, run an investment pool, and much more. I am honored to serve as your Kitsap County Treasurer, and like my colleagues across the state, take this job very seriously. We don't make the laws—but we ensure the monies are collected and distributed accurately and appropriately.

Your [property tax bill](#) reflects your property's share of the state, county, and other taxing districts, such as school, fire, emergency services, and ports. Last June, the [state legislature](#) passed a [levy increase](#) which boosts the general state tax for most Kitsap county taxpayers by about 55% in 2018. It also caps the local school district "enhancement" levy at \$1.50 in 2019.

- For most of us, that increase averages about \$91 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
 - Those with property tax exemptions, like seniors on limited incomes, are exempted.

Tax bills vary depending on which districts serve that property. But these taxing entities can't raise your taxes arbitrarily. The State only allows local districts budget increases of 1 percent, plus an allowance for new construction. Other increases may only come in the form of voter-approved levies.

These are district-specific increases and decreases:

- [Kitsap Regional Library](#) voted levy increase of 33.5 percent.
- A new [Bainbridge Island school](#) voted levy increase of 5%
- [Bainbridge Parks](#) also increases due to principal on bonds paid every other year.
- A final year of the [North Kitsap school](#) bond results in a 25% decrease.
- South Kitsap voters' new [school](#) and [fire](#) levies, with increases of 7% and 14%, respectively.
- The [City of Poulsbo](#) is using banked capacity, resulting in a 5% increase.

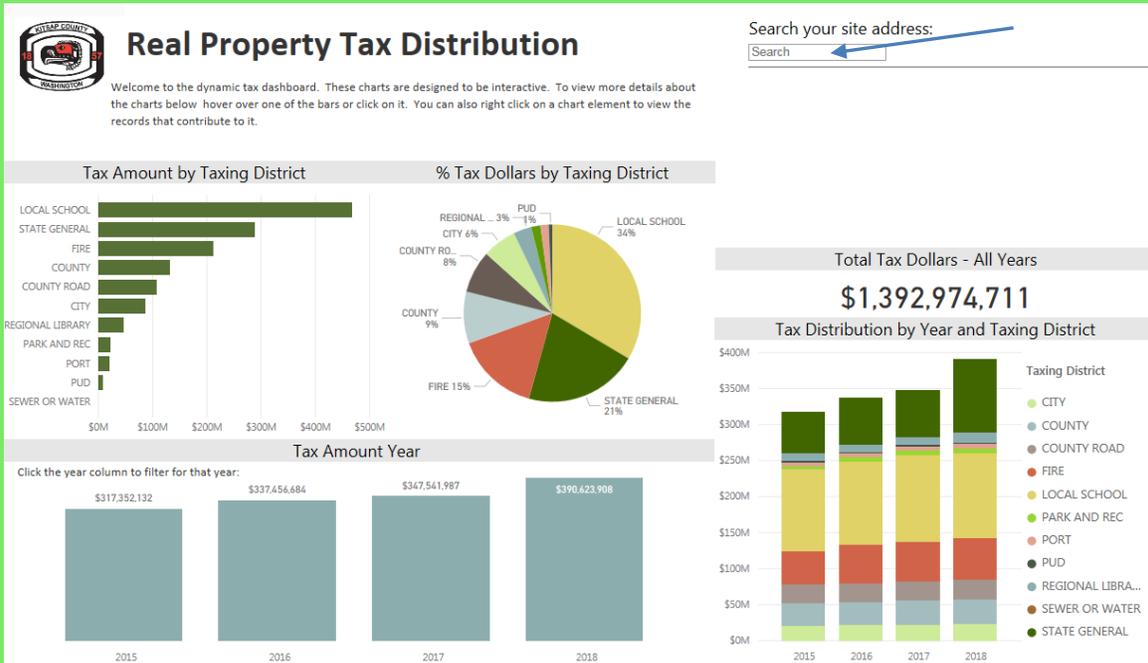
One more thing: We work closely with [Assessor Phil Cook](#) and his staff, who are responsible to ensure that district budgets are evenly distributed amongst the district's properties. Tax bills for 2018 are based on the property value on January 1, 2017 and Kitsap values increased 8-10% overall. If you have any questions regarding the levies or assessed value of your properties see the [Assessor's website](#) or call 360-337-7160.

Changes in your Treasurer's Office

Our transition to processing all property tax payments in house, rather than through a service, was very successful, and it saves taxpayers more than \$30,000 annually. Please remember to update your records to our **PO Box 169 Port Orchard, WA 98366** and **discard any old envelopes you may have**. Many taxpayers have elected to receive their bills electronically, which you may do at [eNoticesOnline](#) with the code that is provided on your statement. Many taxpayers pay their [taxes monthly automatically](#) through our office, or you can visit our [website](#) for other options. We are updating our Assessor-Treasurer system, the first update since the late 1990s. Kitsap-based Paladin Data Systems is doing that work, and we look forward to increased functionality and efficiency.

More resources

This chart below displays the distribution for real estate taxes county-wide, which shows that 55% of this year’s taxes are for the state and local school levies, and less than 10% goes to the county general fund. Access this interactive chart for your property by going to our website and clicking [“My Tax Distribution”](#).



Although no one enjoys paying taxes, we know that the money is needed to fund public schools, police and fire services, and many other important public functions. My staff and I work hard to make your interactions with us positive, and we welcome your questions, comments or suggestions. Please complete the [online survey](#), stop by, call us at 360-337-7135, or email treasurer@co.kitsap.wa.us. As public employees, we are here to serve you.

Regards,
Meredith Green and Staff

Change of Address

If your MAILING ADDRESS has changed from the address shown on the enclosed tax statement(s), complete this form and return it with your payment, mail it to us, or see 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