



Meredith R. Green, CPA
Kitsap County Treasurer

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Dear Taxpayer,

February 2019

Tax bills for 2019 bring relief for some taxpayers and increases for others depending on the school districts served by the property and new voter approved levies. Read this letter on our website at www.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 [42 junior taxing districts](#). We collect and distribute property taxes, process transactions, pay debt, run an investment pool, and much more. I am honored to be starting my third term as your Kitsap County Treasurer and to also serve as the president of the Washington State Association of County Treasurers.

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. As opposed to local districts, the state general levy is rate based, which means that the tax billed will vary directly with the change in assessed value.

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. In 2017, the [state legislature](#) passed a [levy increase](#) that boosted the general state tax for most Kitsap county taxpayers by about 55% in 2018, which was reduced by 12.5% for 2019. For most properties, the 12.5% rate reduction for 2019 was offset by the increase in assessed value.

The local school "enhancement" levy is now capped at \$1.50, which resulted in a decrease for [South Kitsap](#), [Bremerton](#) and [Central Kitsap](#) school districts. [North Kitsap's](#) decrease in the enhancement levy was more than offset by a voter approved [capital levy](#). [Bainbridge Island's](#) school enhancement levy is less than \$1.50, so it remains intact.

Other significant district-specific increases and decreases are:

- Voted Fire & EMS levy increases of 16 % for [Central Kitsap](#), 13% for [North Kitsap](#), and 17% for [Poulsbo](#)
- [Bainbridge Parks](#) also decreases due to principal on bonds paid every other year
- [Port of Illahee](#) is using banked levy capacity for a 12% increase
- [Village Green Metropolitan Park District](#) is using banked capacity for a 15% increase

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 2019 are based on the property value on January 1, 2018 and Kitsap values generally increased 6-14%. If you have any questions regarding the levies or assessed value of your properties see the [Assessor's website](#) or call 360-337-7160.

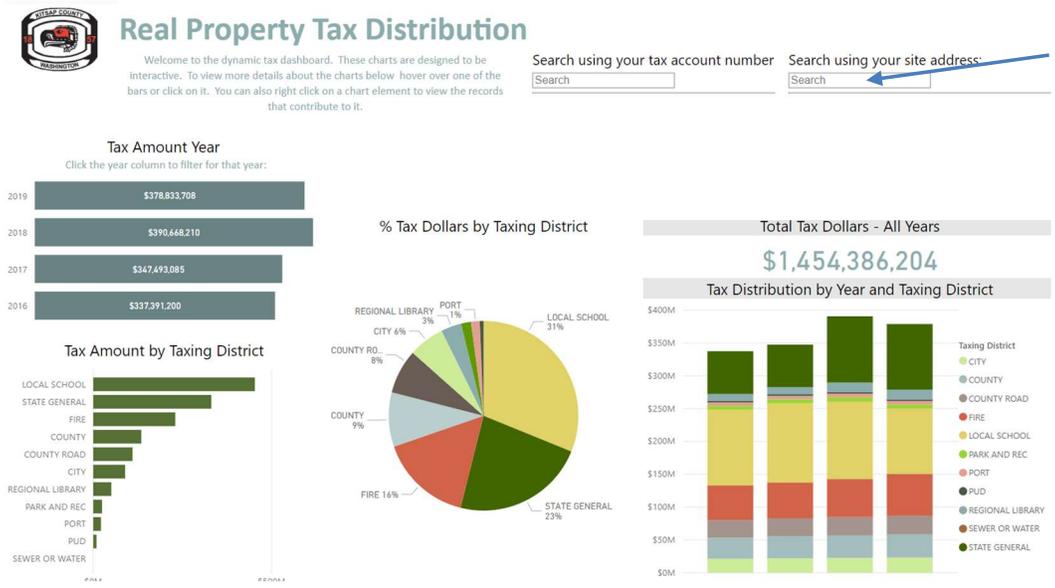
Paying your tax bill

Many taxpayers have elected to receive their bills electronically, which you may do at [eNoticesOnline](#) with the code that is provided on your statement. Visit our [website](#) to view payment options. Some taxpayers automatically pay their [taxes monthly](#) or [semi-annually](#) through our office. Tax bills can also be paid by [e-check](#) (\$1) or [credit card](#) (2.4% fee). If you mail your check, we highly recommend taking it to the post office a couple days in advance, which reduces mail fraud and ensures a postmark by the due date. Please use our new (since 2017) PO Box 169 in Port Orchard and discard any old envelopes.

More resources

The Dept. of Community Development ([DCD](#)) reminds property owners in unincorporated areas that they may be near agricultural lands on which commercial activities can occur. Washington State (RCW [7.48.300](#)) and the county support the right to farm and may protect these agricultural uses and activities. Please see [Kitsap County's Agricultural Code](#) or contact DCD at (360) 337-5777 for more information.

This chart below displays the distribution for real estate taxes county-wide, which shows that 54% 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. We 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