February 2024

Dear Taxpayer,

I'd like to take a moment to update you on some changes my office is implementing in 2024 along with information on a state program designed to help residents struggling with tax and mortgage delinquency.

Electronic Tax Payments

I am excited to announce Invoice Cloud as our new electronic payment vendor starting this year. This change brings new efficiencies and options for taxpayers to pay their property taxes online while maintaining our <u>NO</u> <u>COST</u> e-check payment option. One of the best new features is the ability to setup a profile which allows you to view your tax statements, link multiple parcels, and save multiple payment options. New payment options available through Invoice Cloud include Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo, text to pay, and the ability to setup semi-annual auto payments with any of the available payment types.

Statement Layout

As you may have already noticed, we have made significant changes to our Tax Statements this year based on customer questions and feedback. My hope is that the new layout will make our tax statements more readable and easily digestible.

2024 Property Tax Calculations and Distributions

Tax bills for 2024 are based on property values as of January 1, 2023, and reflect your property's share of the budgets of the state, county, and other taxing districts, such as school, fire, emergency services, and ports. Approximately 29% of the property taxes we collect goes to the State, 28% to local schools, 17% to fire districts, 8% to the County general fund, and the remainder to roads, cities, port, water, and other districts we serve.

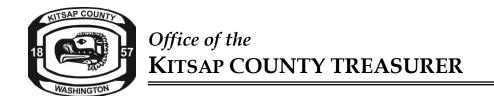
Property taxes are entirely budget-based, and the State allows local district budget increases of 1%, plus an allowance for new construction. Changes in taxes for individual properties vary, depending on that property's change in value as compared with others in the same district. Other increases may only come in the form of voter-approved levies.

Some taxpayers will see increases this year, which are largely a result of local voter approved levies. New voter-approved LID lifts resulted in increases for <u>Bainbridge Island Metro Parks</u> (5.2%), <u>Central Kitsap Fire</u> (17.5%), and <u>South Kitsap Fire</u> (30.2%). Allowance for new construction lead to increases for <u>City of Port Orchard</u> (8.3%) and <u>City of Poulsbo</u> (5.3%). <u>City of Bainbridge Island</u> ended their open space bond collection resulting in a 5.6% decrease. <u>South Kitsap</u> school district decreased by 4.2% due to the per pupil max on the local school enrichment levy. Additionally, <u>Village Green Metropolitan Parks</u> used banked capacity resulting in a 13.5% levy increase.

Homeowners Assistance Fund

In recent months, my office has met with the Washington State Housing Finance Commission regarding the state's Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) program which assists people who are behind on their mortgage and/or property taxes with paying delinquent amounts due on the property. This is a grant funded program

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that will sunset once all the funds are utilized, so if you are in need of assistance, I recommend reaching out to HAF on their website https://washingtonhaf.org as soon as possible or call them at 877-894-4663.

Assessor Update

For 2024 the qualifying income limits for the Senior Citizen & Disabled Persons property tax exemption increased to \$65,000 for Kitsap County taxpayers. If you are 61 years of age or older or have a disability and have a combined household income of \$65,000 or less, you may qualify for the exemption. To learn more about the program please visit: kcowa.us/taxrelief.

Did you know that the Assessor's Office is now publishing a newsletter? Sign up to get valuable news and updates about upcoming changes that may impact you at www.kitsap.gov/assessor.

Online Tools

There are many online tools available on Kitsap County's <u>Parcel Details</u>. In addition to data regarding assessed values and your property tax bill, there is information about well and septic history, voting districts, as well as plat and permit data. We also have an online <u>property tax distribution</u> tool to help better understand the allocation of your property taxes. You can find this letter on our website at <u>www.kitsap.gov/treasurer</u> to access the links within it.

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 <u>website</u>. Note: Completing a change of address does not change legal ownership.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	List of all Account Numbers affected by this change*
Name	
Mailing Address	
City State ZIP	
Email Address	
Phone Number (in case we have questions)	
Date Owner's Signature	*Refer to tax statement(s) for Account Number(s)

We understand that paying taxes is never fun, but we strive to make your interaction with us a positive one. I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. You can reach us by calling 360-337-7135 or sending an email to treasurer@kitsap.gov.

Regards,

Pete Boissonneau and Team

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