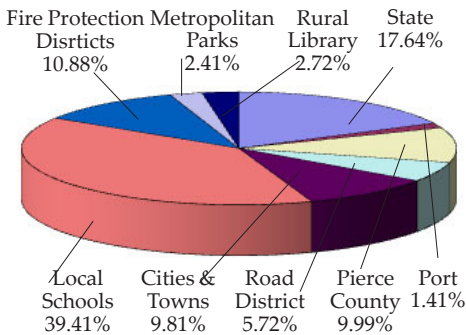


# HOW YOUR PROPERTY TAXES ARE PUT TO WORK

Paying property taxes is probably not one of your favorite activities. That's understandable. It can, however, be a little easier if you know what you get in return for your hard earned tax dollars.

Property taxes are distributed to a wide range of services throughout Pierce County. A portion also goes to the state. The Property Tax Distribution chart below shows the major recipients. Pierce County's share is just under 10 percent.

## Property Tax Distribution



## Property Taxes Are Combined With Other Revenues To Fund County Services.

Revenues collected by Pierce County are deposited into a General Fund to be used for operating expenses.

The 9.9% received by the county from property taxes is the largest source of income and provides almost half of the revenue in the General Fund. Other sources range from court fines to sales tax.

## Pierce County General Fund Expenditures



## The General Fund Pays For Most County Services.

The owner of an average home in Pierce County will pay approximately \$245 per month in property taxes. About 10 percent, or about \$24, will go to the county's General Fund. That amount, plus other revenues, will pay a homeowner's share of one month's worth of services such as:

**Law and Justice.** 78.6% of the General Fund goes to the Sheriff's Department, Corrections Division (jail), Emergency Management, Medical Examiner, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Department of Assigned Council, Superior Court, District Court, Court Clerk, and Juvenile Court Services.

**General Government.** These services include the functions of the offices of the Assessor-Treasurer and Auditor, Budget & Finance, the Communications Department, County Council, County Executive and Personnel.

## Physical & Economic Environment.

Everything from construction permits to comprehensive community plans are provided by the Planning and Land Services Department and the Economic Development office.

**Culture/Recreation.** This is the maintenance, operation and creation of parks and recreation facilities as well as the support of county arts programs.

**Mental/Physical Health.** A portion of the General Fund is used to reach and treat disadvantaged citizens.

For more information about how your tax dollars benefit you, please contact the Assessor-Treasurer's office at 2401 So. 35th St., Room 142, Tacoma, WA 98409-7498. For added convenience, you may call 253-798-6111 or visit us online.

**We work for you the taxpayer.  
253-798-6111 Customer Service**

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**Dale Washam  
Assessor-Treasurer**