

## ENSURING CONTINUITY OF COUNTY TREASURERS SERVICES



Washington Association  
of COUNTY OFFICIALS

One major function of the County Treasurer is to provide billing, collection, and disbursement of property taxes for all public taxing entities in the county. Over time, this has resulted in roughly 60% of the workload of the county treasurer providing services free-of-cost to entities other than the county. For example, Yakima County provides these services for 98 public entities other than Yakima County. RCW allows County Treasurers to assess a modest fee on special purpose districts / special assessments but has no such provision for services provided to taxing districts (e.g. cities, ports, school, fire and hospital districts, and the state). This has resulted in growing inequity in who is paying for and receiving services, and inadequate and unstable funds for key Treasurer's office functions and staffing.

To support and ensure continuity in services from local collection through the state revenue system, County Treasurers are seeking collaboration and support from the state and local taxing districts in identifying means for County Treasurer's operations to be more self-sustaining.

**This bill proposes to initiate modest cost-recovery fee to taxing districts receiving treasurer services for billing, collection and distribution of property taxes.**

We propose the County Treasurer recover allowable prior year actual costs on a pro rata basis from each billable levy for actual real and personal property. To mitigate the impact on smaller taxing districts, the first \$50,000 of the district's levy amount shall be excluded from the cost recovery. Recovered costs would be credited to a new dedicated fund to help sustain property tax billing, collection, and distribution operations in each County Treasurer's office. The maximum percentage for cost recovery shall be capped at 1% for counties larger than 250,000 and 2% for counties smaller than 250,000. REET administration, local investment pool administration, foreclosure and distraint administration and other non-allowable expenses will not be included in the cost recovery model. Taxing districts may recover the fees paid the following year through a refund levy.

The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) joins with the Washington Association of County Treasurers (WSACT) in support of this proposal.

**Jennifer Wallace - Executive Director**

jennifer@countyofficials.org  
360-489-3042

**Timothy Grisham - Deputy Director**

tim@countyofficials.org  
360-489-3044

