

Yakima County Treasurer

A Report to Our Citizens Fiscal Year 2015

Ilene Thomson, Yakima County Treasurer

How the Office Operates

The County Treasurer's Office acts as the bank for the County departments, school districts, fire districts, special purpose districts and other units of local government, by receipting, disbursing, investing, and accounting for the funds of each of these entities. The Treasurer's Office is also charged with the collection of various taxes that benefit a wide range of governmental functions.

Some of the major responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office is as follows:

- Receipting and Accounting of Revenue
- Collection of Taxes and Assessments
- Disbursement of Funds
- Debt Management
- Cash and Investment Portfolio Management
- Banking Services
- Real Property/Mobile Home Transfers
- Real and Personal Property Foreclosure
- Property Tax Adjustments and Refunds

Fiscal Year	2015	2014
Employees	18	18
Parcel Count	106,275	106,095
Taxes & Assessments Billed	\$207,324,780	\$206,984,178
Operating Budget	\$1,381,776	\$1,316,537
Actual Expenses	\$1,323,840	\$1,198,763

Table of Contents

Accomplishments	
Receipting Activity	
Real Estate Excise Tax	2

Investment Pool Participants	
Investment Pool Portfolio	
TIP Interest Rate Comparison	3

Property Tax & Assessment Distribution	
Property Tax Record Adjustments	
Looking Ahead	4

Mission Statement

To prudently handle and manage the public funds that have been entrusted to our care, to serve the taxpayers and our business partners with respect and professionalism, and to provide accurate financial reporting services.



Contact Us

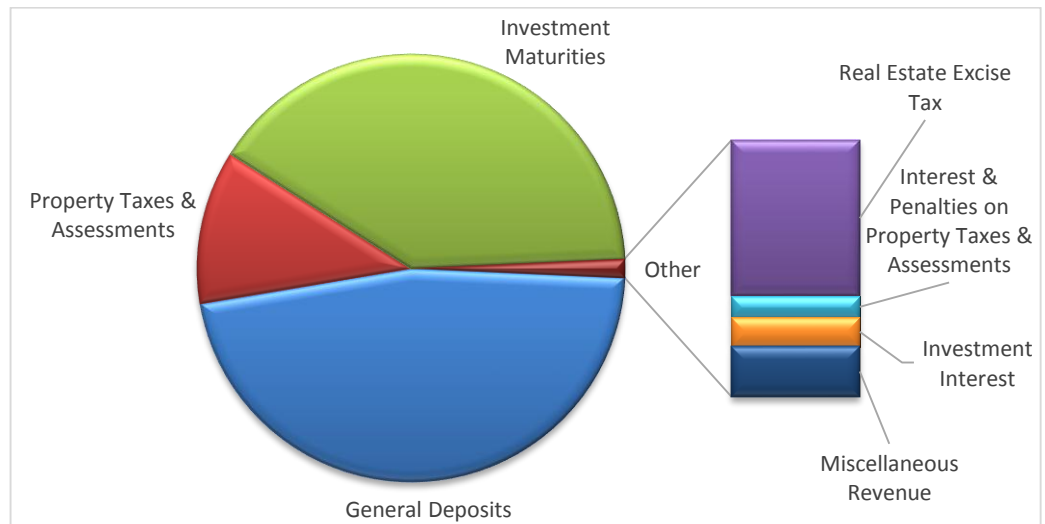
128 N Second St., Room 115, Yakima
PO Box 22530, Yakima WA 98907
www.yakimacounty.us/treasurer
(509) 574-2800 Tax Information
(509) 574-2780 Accounting Division

2015 Accomplishments

- Provided an additional fraud prevention service to Districts who issue warrants by initiating payee positive pay with Key Bank, which reduces the risk of altered checks and counterfeit check fraud.
- Received certification by the Washington Public Treasurer's Association for the Yakima County Investment Policy.
- Transitioned to a new third-party vendor for online debit/credit cards and e-check payments in order to reduce the fees charged to the taxpayer.
- Partnered with CivicPlus, a website developer focused on local government, to update and standardize Yakima County's website.
- Conducted the first online foreclosure auction using Bid4Assets.com. This allowed our office to expedite the process of collecting unpaid taxes for the taxing districts and allowed interested parties to bid on properties from any location where internet access was available.
- Successfully sold 12 Tax Title properties through the private negotiation process which positively impacts the taxing districts by placing these properties back on the tax rolls for future year's collections.

Receipting Activity	2015	2014
General Deposits	\$792,472,916	\$745,332,127
Property Taxes & Assessments	197,270,939	196,307,679
Interest & Penalties on Property Taxes & Assessments	1,910,231	2,048,985
Real Estate Excise Taxes	13,952,235	11,392,502
Investment Maturities	684,778,583	774,507,605
Investment Interest	2,565,324	2,588,938
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,496,961	4,490,333
Total	\$1,697,447,189	\$1,736,668,169

Summary of 2015 Receipting Activity



Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits Processed

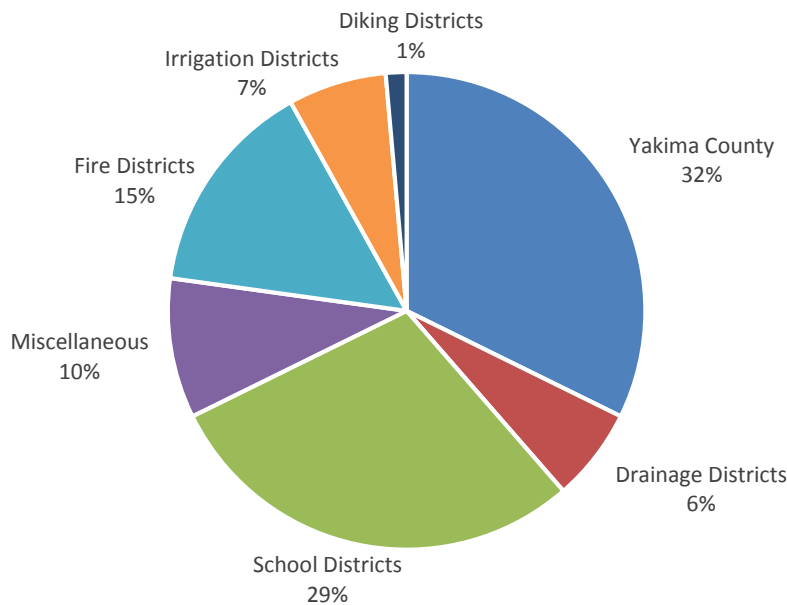
In 2011, the Treasurer's Office implemented eConvey, the electronic processing and reporting system for the receipt of real estate tax affidavits submitted to our office. This created greater efficiencies in processing the documents, as well as allowing for the electronic submission of all excise tax affidavits to the WA State Department of Revenue rather than manually preparing and mailing those documents on a monthly basis.

	2015		2014	
	Counter	eConvey	Counter	eConvey
Quarter 1	998	572	1,061	390
Quarter 2	1,134	726	1,251	467
Quarter 3	1,120	766	1,108	586
Quarter 4	1,106	660	1,117	603

County Treasurer's Investment Pool Portfolio

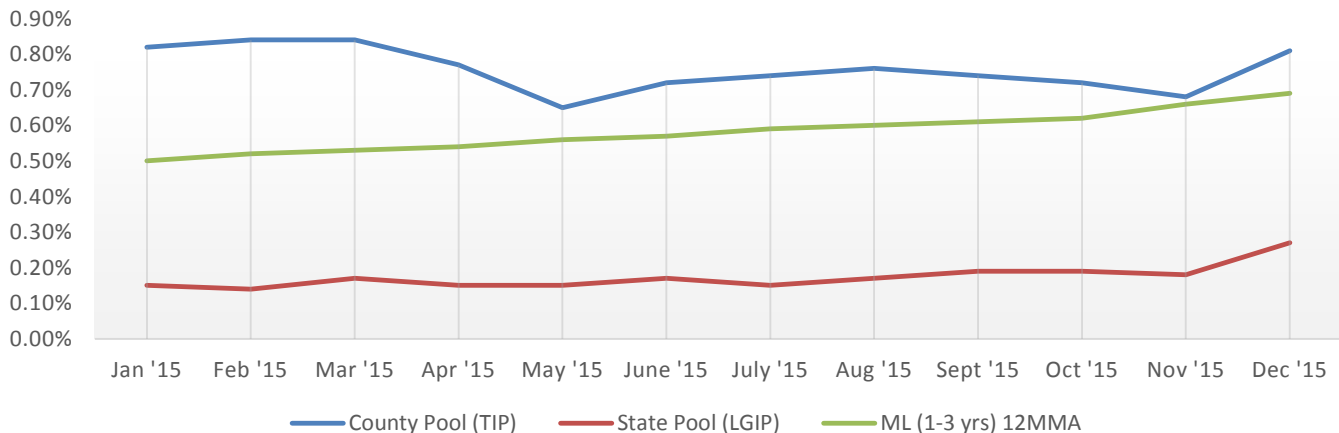
The Yakima County Treasurer's Office actively manages an investment pool portfolio of approximately \$350 million. The Treasurer's Investment Pool (TIP) was established April 1, 2005 to create a locally managed diversified investment option that would achieve a potentially higher yield than other investment options. The investments of Yakima County, as well as most districts in the County, are pooled together in TIP. There are over 280 different funds currently participating in the TIP.

Treasurer's Investment Pool Participants
as of December 2015



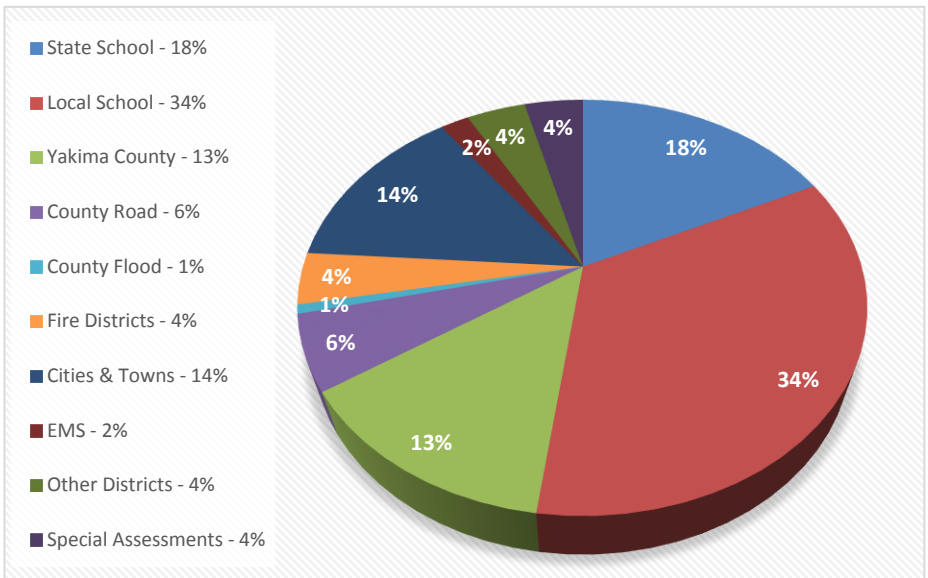
	TIP Portfolio
As of Dec 2015	\$350,020,804
No. of Participants	285
As of Dec 2014	\$301,241,607
No. of Participants	289
As of Dec 2013	\$290,679,797
No. of Participants	329

County Pool (TIP) - Gross Interest Rate Comparison
Historical Performance vs. Benchmarks



2015 Property Tax and Assessment Collections

Taxes & Assessments	2015	2014
State School	\$35,075,939	\$39,005,082
Local School	67,792,769	65,179,053
Yakima County	26,443,242	26,530,857
County Road	11,463,555	10,630,992
County Flood	1,402,286	1,373,192
Fire Districts	7,940,476	7,689,820
Cities & Towns	27,479,352	27,091,939
EMS	3,852,096	3,751,385
Other Districts	7,931,907	7,697,418
Special Assessments	7,889,317	7,357,941
Total	\$197,270,939	\$196,307,679



Other Districts: Library, Port and Park Districts

Special Assessment Districts: Irrigation, Conservation, Mosquito, Diking, Drainage, Weed, Stormwater, Horticulture, County Road and Local Improvement Districts and State Forest Patrol Assessments

Property Tax Record Adjustments

Tax Record Adjustments represent changes to the property taxes that are certified by the County Assessor each year by January 15th.

Exemption Type

	2015	2014
Senior/Disabled Person	1,216	1,242
Denials – Senior/Disabled Person	501	500
Manifest Error Board	2,487	373
Destroyed Property	38	35
Board of Equalization	9	14
Government Exemption	39	253
Department of Revenue Exemption	108	150
Current Use/Open Space	72	61
Nuisance Abatements	33	33
Others*	32	104
Total	4,535	2,765

*Native American Exemption; Head of Household Exemption; Home Improvement Exemption; Personal Property Late Filing Fee; and Advance Taxes

Goals for 2016

Update the Yakima County Debt Policy and receive certification from the Washington Public Treasurer's Association.

Enhance the Electronic Excise process to increase the type of documents that can be received online.

Expand the partial payment program currently in place for delinquent taxes.

Enhance the property tax information application on our website with new robust technology which will improve future development and create efficiencies.

In partnership with other Yakima County offices, we will evaluate our current financial system to determine if it is advisable to purchase new software or expand our existing software. The primary objective will be obtaining newer technologies that allow for greater efficiencies in our offices.