AGENDA

- TREASURER’S OFFICE OVERVIEW
- PROPERTY TAXES
- ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
- INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS
- POLICY ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH
TREASURER’S OFFICE OVERVIEW

COLLECT
SERVE TAXPAYERS WITH FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

• Over $760 million in property taxes collected in 2022

SAFEGUARD
PROVIDE PUBLIC BANKING SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

• Process $20 billion in transactions for 80+ local government clients annually

INVEST
EARN INCOME ON PUBLIC FUNDS TO SUPPORT LOCAL SERVICES

• Management of $1.6 billion Spokane Public Investment Fund:
  Over $87 million in earnings since 2019
SERVICES FOR TAXPAYERS

- In-person, phone, and online service for taxpayers
- Assist during property sales, transfers, and segregations
- Work to provide solutions during foreclosures and bankruptcies
- Provide refunds for overpayments
- Collection rate over 98% since 2019

YOUR TAX DOLLARS = OUR RESPONSIBILITY
Public Banking

Our Clients:
- Spokane County
- Cities and Towns
- School Districts
- Fire Districts
- Cemetery Districts
- Water Districts
- Spokane Int’l Airport
- Spokane Transit
- Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
- Spokane Public Libraries
- Public Facilities District
- WSU- Spokane Extension
- University District
- Conservation District
- Regional Health District
- AND MORE...

✓ Regional banking hub for over 80 government entities
✓ Accountability and distribution of tax dollars for local services
✓ Manage $20 billion in transactions annually
✓ School districts are our biggest clients
Real Estate & Property Taxes
PROPERTY TAX TRENDS

SPOKANE COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES
2013-2023

41% INCREASE SINCE 2019

2023 Tax Dollar Distribution

Approx. 60% of Spokane property taxes fund School Districts
Local governments set their budgets
  ✓ Most allowed to increase 1% without public vote

Voters vote on bonds and levies

Assessor determines levy rates:
  • Total taxes needed to pay for government DIVIDED BY
  • Individual property value = Your tax bill

Property taxes vary across the County’s 55 different taxing districts (cities, schools, etc.)

Treasurer bills and collects your taxes
  ✓ The Treasurer does not set your taxes or assess the value of your home

On average, 41% of property taxes are self-authorized by voters through bond and levy ballot measures.
Why do taxes go up? (or down…)

+TAX INCREASES

GOVERNMENT SPENDING
• Governments increase their budgets

VOTER APPROVAL
• Voters support ballot measures to authorize levies and bonds

-TAX DECREASES

• Changes in assessed value of property
• Changes in government spending

• Exemption Programs: Seniors & disabled may qualify through County Assessor for property tax bill reductions
## Five Largest Property Tax Increases in 2023

### Spokane Public Schools District #81:
School board majority adopted excess tax levies. Increases in values and new construction contributed to a total increase of $10.6 million for 2023.

### City of Spokane:
City Council majority approved annual 1% levy increase. City voters approved an EMS levy in April 2022. Increases in property value and new construction contribute to total increase of $10.3 million for 2023.

### State Public School Levies 1 & 2:
Previous State Legislature action created a statewide equalized levy for funding public education. Increases in property values and new construction resulted in an additional $13.4 million to be levied in 2023.

### Central Valley School District:
School Board majority approved excess tax levies. Increases in values and new construction lead to an additional $2.6 million increase for 2023.

### Spokane County Fire District #1:
Fire Commissioner majority approved general and special tax levies. District voters approved a levy measure in August 2022. Increases in values and new construction also contributed to an additional $2.5 million to be collected in 2023.

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*Source: Spokane County Assessor. *Note: Not all Spokane County taxpayers are impacted by each of these tax increases.*
SPokane Public School Budgets

SPS #81 Total Expenditures K-12

- 2017-18: $419 m
- 2018-19: $465 m
- 2019-20: $462 m
- 2020-21: $482 m
- 2021-22: $534 m
- 2022-23: $549 m

5 year increase: $130 million (+31%)

SPS #81 Spending per Student K-12

- 2017-18: $13,858
- 2018-19: $15,603
- 2019-20: $15,363
- 2020-21: $16,029
- 2021-22: $17,704
- 2022-23: $19,596

US average: $13,185
WA average: $14,348 (2021-22)

K-12 Enrollment
2017-18: 30,235
2022-23: 28,016

Sources: Spokane Public Schools, EducationData.org; data approx.
Taxpayer Assistance Programs
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

• **Senior/Disabled Exemptions (established by state law)**
  • Minimum Qualifications: Over 61 years of age, must own their home, less than $40,000 in annual household income.
  • For disabled status, the taxpayer must be unable to work due to physical disability.
  • For application details: Call the **Spokane County Assessor’s Office at (509) 477-5754**.
• **Partial Payments**: State law allows for partial payments to be accepted.
  • While penalties and interest still accrue, partial payments may be an option for foreclosure avoidance.

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**SENIOR/DISABLED INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR SELECTED COUNTIES 2020-2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>INCOME THRESHOLD 1</th>
<th>INCOME THRESHOLD 2</th>
<th>INCOME THRESHOLD 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPOKANE</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KING</td>
<td>40,447</td>
<td>49,435</td>
<td>58,423</td>
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<td>PIERCE</td>
<td>31,644</td>
<td>38,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRANKLIN</td>
<td>30,681</td>
<td>37,498</td>
<td>44,316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WA Dept of Revenue
Investing Public Funds
Investment income supports local services without raising taxes or fees on the public.

$1.6 billion of public funds are invested by the Treasurer’s Office in low-risk bonds.

Bond maturities are matched to future cash flows to ensure adequate liquidity.

Over $87 million in investment returns since 2019.

SPIF OUTPERFORMED BOTH BENCHMARK AND STATE LGIP SINCE 2019

Our investment principles (in order):
1) SAFETY
2) LIQUIDITY
3) INVESTMENT INCOME
LOCAL DIRECT INVESTMENT

MARCH 16, 2023

“TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY AND SPOKANE AIRPORT BOARD ANNOUNCE $30 MILLION LOAN SUPPORTING TERMINAL EXPANSION PROJECT”

• **Win-Win for the Taxpayer**
  • Directly invest in local public projects
  • Competitive rates save taxpayer dollars
  • **Over $30 million invested locally since 2019**

• **Local Direct Investments Make an Impact**
  • **Public Safety:** Financed emergency equipment, vehicles, and training facilities for first responders.
  • **Infrastructure:** LDI used to shorten construction at Bigelow Gulch.
  • **Public Schools:** Supported PPE purchases for students and staff during the pandemic.

For more info on Spokane International Airport Expansion Project (TREX), visit www.gegtrex.com
Promoting Sound Public Policy
Policy and Legislation

- **PROTECTING TAXPAYERS**
  - Championed passage of legislation to reduce penalties and interest charges on delinquent taxes [HB 1410, 2021]

- **TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**
  - Supported elimination of out-of-date gambling tax to help restaurants and bars in unincorporated areas of the county survive the pandemic [County Ordinance, 2020]

- **BETTER BANKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
  - Advocated for change in state law to expand banking options for local governments [SB 5106, 2021]

- **FLEXIBILITY FOR TAXPAYERS**
  - Sponsored change in law to allow partial property tax payments [RCW 84.56.020 (iiA), 2015]
PUBLIC OUTREACH

• **Town Halls**: conducted twice per year – spring/fall
• **Year in Review**: Annual report (PDF) posted on website
• **Seniors Coffee with the Treasurer**: held monthly
• **Spokane Valley Office Hours**: extra in-person tax collection
• **Website, Emails, Press Releases and Social Media**:
  • [www.spokanecounty.org/treasurer](http://www.spokanecounty.org/treasurer)
  • [Treasurer Michael Baumgartner | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/treasurer.spokanecounty)
    • **By phone**: (509) 477-4713
    • **By email**: treasurer@spokanecounty.org

WE WORK FOR YOU!