



Kenneth Spencer

Benton County Treasurer

Mission Statement

Provide the most reliable, efficient & cost effective service to the citizens and local governments of Benton County, Washington.

What Do We Do?

The Treasurer is a constitutional officer elected by the people for a four year term. The Treasurer provides independence from the Board of County Commissioners (the legislative branch) as well as all other various local governments that have the ability to levy taxes and assessments. This provides separation from the branch of government responsible for levying taxes to the branch charged with collecting tax revenues.

How are We Set Up?

The County Treasurer's office is charged with the collection of various taxes along with acting as the "bank" for the county, school districts, fire districts, water districts, and other entities of local government. Tax adjustments authorized by the Assessor's office or courts are also processed and refunds are issued to the appropriate taxpayers. Excess monies not currently being used by the county or various local governments are "pooled" for investment with the emphasis of ensuring public monies are safe and secure, available when needed, and achieve the best rate of return after meeting the first two objectives.

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Treasurer's Office	2021	2020
Parcel Count	86,839	81,193
Full Time Employees	15	15
Operating Budget	\$1,436,921.00	\$1,308,064.50
Actual Costs	\$1,324,090.80	\$1,247,499.80
Investments	\$396,500,327.14	\$381,889,855.34

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Feedback

Please let us know what other information you would like to see included in this report by contacting the Benton County

Treasurer at:

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Despite combating the global pandemic for most of the year, transparency and serving our tax payers and districts remained our priority.

Foreclosures and Dstraint

Each year, the Benton County Treasurer’s Office is notified of properties and business equipment that has become delinquent and is included in the foreclosure and dstraint process for the current year. During the 2021 year, we started with 254 foreclosure and 524 dstraint parcels. We worked diligently with the taxpayers and ended 2021 with only 1 foreclosure and 0 dstraint parcels that went to sale. We strive to make our taxing districts whole and keep people in their homes.

Investments

We serve as the investment office for many local governments in addition to Benton County. Even in the unstable economy with lower interest rates, the investment pool has been exceeding expectations for all participating entities. Total investments for 2021 were \$396,500,327.14.

Statements Sent

Tax statements are required by law to be sent annually on or before March 15th. In 2021, we sent the statements the first week of March to give taxpayers a substantial amount of time to pay.

Performance Measures

Our Production	2021	2020
Tax Statements Sent	83,622	82,390
Property Transfers	9,630	8,279
General Receipts	33,218	31,348
Investments Made	14	3
Overpayments/Refunds	1745	1069

Payments Processed

Mortgage Accounts	64,481	63,546
Checks	36,027	35,780
Electronic	13,129	10,882
Automatic Withdrawal	4001	4,180

2022 Goals

New Administration Building

We have moved to our new Administration Building which currently houses three departments; Benton County Assessor, Auditor and Treasurer. Our goal is to provide excellent service to our community by working cohesively with all three departments. While we have implemented some new processes, we are always looking for new ways to better serve the citizens of Benton County.

New Legislation

A new bill has recently passed affecting how interest and penalty are assessed to certain residential and personal properties. We are closely working with all other counties, along with our software vendor, to find a transparent and reliable implementation process.

Mobile Home Dstraint Process

Recent legislature changed the requirements for the dstraint process on mobile homes. 2022 will be the first year implementing these changes and we are working with our districts and taxpayers to help keep them in their homes.

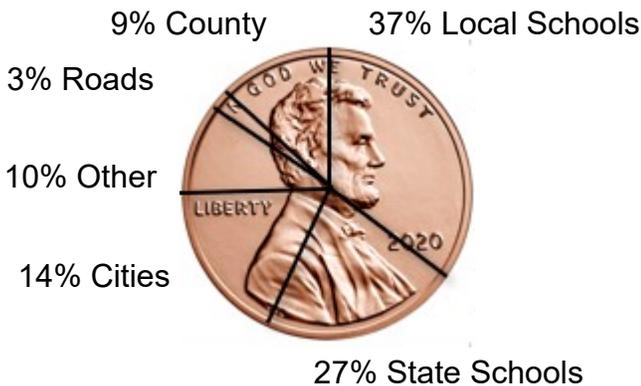


The Assessor identifies and determines the value of all taxable real and personal property, along with the levy rates, which are used to calculate the property tax amount due for each parcel. The Treasurer then issues statements informing the taxpayers what amount is to be collected for the year. Property taxes are collected by the Treasurer's Office and distributed to the corresponding county and district funds. Below you will find the distribution of property taxes once they are collected.

Tax Distribution	2021	2020	% Change
Local Schools*	\$ 93,040,632.00	\$ 93,444,842.00	-1%
State Schools**	\$ 63,041,079.00	\$ 68,095,280.00	-7%
Cities	\$ 38,744,975.00	\$ 37,232,234.00	4%
County	\$ 25,071,435.00	\$ 24,217,508.00	4%
Fire	\$ 12,755,337.00	\$ 11,857,497.00	8%
Ports	\$ 7,141,906.00	\$ 6,876,627.00	4%
Road	\$ 6,980,063.00	\$ 6,825,514.00	2%
Library	\$ 4,208,697.00	\$ 4,173,659.00	1%
Special Assessments	\$ 2,643,670.87	\$ 2,334,734.06	13%
Hospital	\$ 2,372,478.00	\$ 2,283,763.00	4%
Total	\$ 259,000,272.87	\$ 257,389,566.50	-1%

* Local School is tax levy approved by voters for a specified school district.
 ** State School is a levy all property taxpayers pay for public schools.

Tax Dollar Distribution



How Your Tax Dollars are Distributed

Once collected, property taxes are distributed to their respective district funds. These funds are used to provide public services for the county and its taxpayers. Property taxes are the largest revenue source for the county. The penny pie chart (left) illustrates the percentage of total property taxes distributed to each fund grouping in relation to the other categories displayed.

Our Expenditures

Utilizing our allocated budget responsibly is a priority for our office and we strive to keep costs to a minimum. The chart (right) compares our costs in 2020 and 2021. We were able to reduce our supplies cost due to our office being closed to the public for part of the year. As costs for goods and services continues to rise, we will be diligent about keeping costs low in the future.

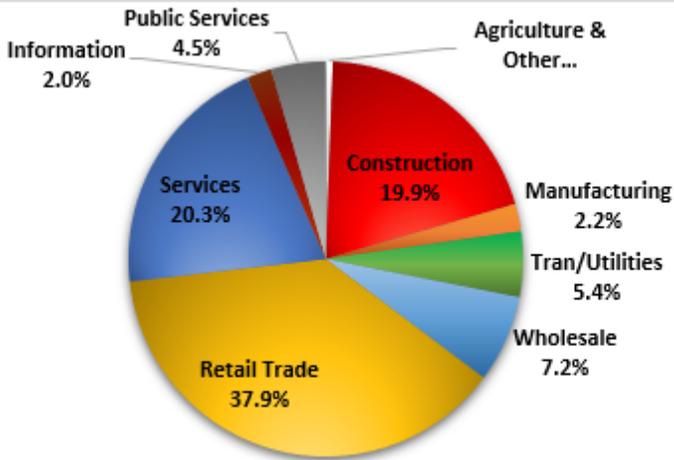
Our Costs	2021	2020
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 994,503.33	\$930,121.46
Supplies & Services	\$ 75,897.47	\$84,481.03
Interfund	\$ 253,690.00	\$232,897.31
Total	\$ 1,324,090.80	\$1,247,499.80



The Covid-19 pandemic brought many challenges and hurdles including restricting in-person activities and implementing work from home policy and procedures.

In the fall of 2021, we moved our office into the new Administration building. We are now joined with other county offices into one customer service center. By having us all in one building, it will increase the level of service we are able to provide to our tax payers.

Economic Impact



Sales and use taxes are the second largest revenue source for Benton County, second only to real & personal property taxes. The Treasurer’s Office monitors and analyzes local retail sales & use tax trends; we receive data from the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. Analyzing this data helps our office be more accurate when forecasting future revenue.

The pie chart on the left displays the breakdown of the collected sales and use tax for the 2021 tax year. The total collected for 2021 was \$15,599,399.16, an increase from 2020. We anticipate this to trend higher as more purchases are made online.

Impacts on Local Economy

As with many counties across the state, the global pandemic, brought many challenges for businesses. Benton County was fortunate to see a decrease of 2.6% in unemployment and a slight increase in building permits.

While building permits increased we did experience a decline in new construction. New construction means more added value to our area which will increase total taxes levied. An increase in taxes levied will provide more services for the county such as school funding, road work, capital projects and more.

Population: Increased from 207,494 to

210,025



Unemployment Rate: Decreased from 8.2 % to

5.6%



Building Permits: Increased from 897 to

997



New Construction: Decreased from \$684,011,970

\$542,901,200



Independent Audit: The Treasurer’s office does not issue separate financial statements, however, the Treasurer’s office contributes a major portion of the revenues and statements included in the Benton County Comprehensive Financial Report. Complete financial reports can be found at the County’s website: [Fiscal Services - Benton County Auditor \(www.bentonauditor.com\)](http://www.bentonauditor.com).

The Benton County Treasurer’s Citizen-Centric Report provides a brief summary of the Benton County Treasurer’s 2021 performance, following the Citizen-Centric Reporting model established by the Association of Government Accountants.

For more information about the Treasurer of Benton County, visit our website at: www.Bentoncountytax.com

