

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS--2001

TABLES 1 - 6

Collections data are obtained from county treasurers for all taxing districts imposing an ad valorem property tax, either authorized by statute or approved by voters. Special benefit assessments levied on other than an ad valorem basis are not included.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE IN 2001 (TABLES 1 AND 2)

Property taxes levied in 2000 and due in 2001 were \$5,713 million, increasing \$336.1 million, or 6.2 percent, from the amount due in 2000. Collections of taxes due in 2001 totaled \$5,521 million, increasing \$317.5 million, or 6.1 percent, from 2000. The collection response rate in 2001 of 96.6 percent was down slightly from the 96.8 percent rate in 2000.

During the year, tax roll cancellations (transfer to exempt status, correction of errors, destroyed property, and uncollectible accounts) exceeded tax roll additions (omitted property, property removed from exempt status, and new structures not previously on the rolls) by \$1.5 million. The resulting year-end unpaid balance was \$190.5 million, up \$22.7 million from 2000. This amount equaled 3.3 percent of the 2001 tax roll.

Garfield County led all counties last year with a 99.0 percent collection response, followed by Columbia County with 98.5 percent, and Clallam County with 98.2 percent. All together, 33 counties reported collection rates of 95 percent or above, with 6 counties collecting less than 95 percent.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 3 AND 4)

Delinquent taxes (taxes on the rolls previous to the 2001 tax year) were \$257.0 million. Of this amount, plus additions, \$158 million was collected during the year. The statewide response rate is 61.6 percent.

Thirty-four counties had a 50 percent or better collection rate in 2001. In 2000, 35 counties had a 50 percent or better collection rate. For 2001, 10 counties had delinquent collection rates of 60 percent or greater, down from 12 counties in 2000.

CURRENT AND DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 5 AND 6)

The combined amount of current and delinquent taxes due in 2001 was \$5,970.1 million. Collections totaled \$5,679.4 million, 95.1 percent of the total due. At the end of 2001, delinquent taxes were \$285.9 million, up \$29.4 million, an increase of 11.4 percent from 2000. Although the collection of current taxes was 96.6 percent (as noted above), the collection rate was 99.4 percent of current roll, taking into account both current and delinquent taxes.