

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS--2006

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 2006 (TABLES 1 AND 2)

Property taxes levied in 2005 and due in 2006 were \$7,306.0 million, increasing \$419.0 million, or 6.1 percent, from the amount due in 2005. Collections of taxes due in 2006 totaled \$7,136.4 million, increasing \$368.8 million, or 5.4 percent, from 2005. The collection response rate in 2006 of 97.7 percent was down from the 98.3 percent rate in 2005.

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 \$2.7 million. The resulting year-end unpaid balance was \$166.9 million, up about \$4.1 million from 2005. This amount equaled 2.3 percent of the 2006 tax roll.

Kittitas County led all counties last year with a 99.3 percent collection response. Garfield and Jefferson Counties followed with 99.1 percent. All together, 37 counties reported collection rates of 95 percent or above, leaving two counties collecting less than 95 percent.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 3 AND 4)

Delinquent taxes (taxes on the rolls previous to the 2006 tax year) were \$260.2 million. Of this amount, plus additions, \$165.7 million was collected during the year. The statewide response rate is 63.7 percent.

Thirty-five counties had a 50 percent or better collection rate in 2006 which is the same number of counties as in 2005. For 2006, 27 counties had delinquent collection rates of 60 percent or greater which is up from 21 counties in 2005.

CURRENT AND DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 5 AND 6)

The combined amount of current and delinquent taxes due in 2006 for all 39 counties was \$7,566.2 million. Collections totaled \$7,302.2 million, 96.5 percent of the total due. At the end of 2006, delinquent taxes were \$252.3 million, down \$17.4 million, a decrease of 6.4 percent from 2005. Although the collection of current taxes was 97.7 percent (as noted above), the collection rate was 99.9 percent of current roll, taking into account both current and delinquent taxes.