



# Property Tax Review

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## *It's Like Déjà Vu All Over Again*

By Brad Flaherty, Assistant Director

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I believe it was Yogi Berra the New York Yankee baseball player that is credited with the phrase “It seems like déjà vu all over again.” That feeling suddenly came over me as I looked at last year’s Property Tax Newsletter article that discussed what the next year would bring. At that time, we were recruiting to fill vacant positions, developing plans to implement changes that could result from the I-747 Superior Court decision, discussing alternative proposals to the existing property tax statutes, and how best to meet our service commitments to all of our stakeholders.

Here it is a year later and we are waiting to see how the Washington State Supreme Court rules on I-747, property tax alternatives are still being discussed, we are still seeking input from our stakeholders, conducting surveys, and we are still recruiting to fill vacant positions. So what have we accomplished?

For starters, we have recruited, interviewed, and filled over 25 positions in the last 12 months, with the result that over 40

percent of the Division’s staff is in positions that differ from their position a year ago. Much of this has been accomplished through promotion, reassignment, and reorganization of existing Property Tax personnel. As a result, we have filled these positions without our overall experience and knowledge base being diminished. Several positions have been filled by personnel that have extensive experience with local assessor’s offices. We are certainly happy to have them, but we definitely understand the impact it may have created in some of the local offices.

As far as tax alternatives go, in the last Legislative Session, we provided input in the form of briefing documents and legislative testimony on over 160 pieces of legislation. Staff reviewed, analyzed, and prepared briefing documents on each and every proposal to determine the intent and impact. Many of these proposals were for changes to the property tax system that would have resulted in

significant tax shifts and/or increased administration costs. While none of these proposals passed the last Session, we anticipate a number of similar proposals in the next Legislative Session.

We are still waiting for a decision from the court on I-747, but we have implementation plans in place to provide education and information depending on the outcome. Unlike last year at this time, we are ready.

All this was accomplished while conducting the day-to-day business of the Division. When we work on special projects, we sometimes forget that, in addition to the more

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Special points of interest:

- **Quarterly Reminders** (see pages 2-3)
- **Upcoming Training** (see page 4)

## This Quarter's Reminders

### September and October (During the months of)

The Department of Revenue shall equalize taxes to be collected for state purposes. (RCW 84.48.080)

### September 1 (Prior to first Monday in September)

The Department of Revenue shall annually determine the indicated ratio for each county. (RCW 84.48.075)

### September 4 (On or before first Tuesday)

Last day for county auditors to submit preliminary budgets to Boards of County Commissioners. (RCW 36.40.050)

### September 15

County assessors will furnish the DOR Forest Tax Division the composite property tax rate on designated forest land in the county.

### September (During the month of)

Assessors' certification of assessed valuations to taxing districts. (RCW 84.48.130)  
Department of Revenue certifies its assessments of public utility operating properties to county assessors after final ratios have been certified. (RCW 84.12.370)

### October 1 (First Monday)

Last day to file application for special valuation on historic property on 2007 assessment roll. (RCW 84.26.040) Timber Assessed Value (TAV) calculated for each county. (RCW 84.33.035)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Déjà Vu All Over Again (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

high-profile projects, over 10,000 nonprofit renewals were processed, other deferrals and exemptions were reviewed for approval, over 1500 personal property tax appraisals were performed to complete the ratio study, centrally assessed properties were appraised and apportioned, levy and county reviews were performed, training was conducted and advisory appraisals were completed. All in all, it has been a great year.

So, as we begin another round of interviews to fill vacant positions, analyze this year's legislative proposals, begin our Fall training classes, and wonder if we are stuck in a never-ending loop, I realize that over the next year everything will be the same — just different. The one thing that will remain the same is the commitment of the Property Tax Division staff to meet each challenge thrown our way in a timely and professional manner. ♦

## *Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals*

By Mike Braaten, Exemption Supervisor

Decades ago, the list of properties that were exempt from property taxes was relatively short. The exemptions for property owned by nonprofit organizations were limited to churches and the YMCA. Today, there is a long list of property tax exemptions and special valuations that have a major effect on the property tax base in each county. In our budget-based system, these “tax preferences” usually result in a shift of taxes from the owner or the organization being benefited by an exemption onto others. Exemptions do not come “free.” The costs of property tax exemptions are absorbed by all taxpayers.

The Legislature has begun a systematic review of “tax preferences,” including property tax programs. The study will take several years to complete, but the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) is already providing reports and preparing recommendations regarding property tax programs. They are trying to evaluate which tax preferences are accomplishing what they were designed to do and which ones should be re-examined by our legislators. You can learn about JLARC's review and how to participate in the public side of the process by visiting their website at [www.leg.wa.gov/JLARC](http://www.leg.wa.gov/JLARC).

Meanwhile, the Property Tax Division and county officials must administer an imposing number of exemption or special valuation programs that are varied and often complex. While the county assessors and their staff carry most of the day-to-day administrative burden for these programs, the Property Tax Division is poised to help. For taxpayers and county officials that need specific assistance with exemptions/deferrals or just want some answers about exempt programs, we invite them to contact us here at the Exemptions and Deferrals Section in the Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division.

The Exemption and Deferral Section directly administers a few property tax exemption programs. As our Division has general oversight over all property tax programs, we are expected to advise, train, or otherwise assist on just about any property tax exemption issue. Questions about exemptions and special valuations often involve or affect other programs. They may require a team response from the Property Tax Division. If our experts on levy administration, personal property, appeals, or current use can better help us complete an answer or draft an opinion, they will step in and get it done. The following is a partial list of the exempt programs we are involved with on a regular basis and our suggested staff contacts.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## County Sales Validation Process Innovations

By R. C. Cavazos, County Review Program

As part of the Department's commitment to assist the assessment community in providing uniform, equitable, and quality assessments, we have undertaken the task of conducting a best practice study focusing on the sales validation process. Best practices are actions or processes that positively impact the assessment administration function. The objective is to provide ideas to enhance the effectiveness of similar programs in other counties. Each county is encouraged to review these practices and decide if any can be adopted to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their own programs. Best practice reports provide additional tools that counties can use to improve assessment administration. This report, as well as our previous report on best practices used in the administration of the Senior Citizen and Disabled Person Exemption and Deferral Programs, can be found on our website at:

[http://dor.wa.gov/Content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTax/prop\\_BestPractices.aspx](http://dor.wa.gov/Content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTax/prop_BestPractices.aspx)

A sales validation process provides a means for sales screening and identification. Assessors must be able to identify sales that require adjustments or are not indicative of the market. The screening process provides a mechanism for the assessor to sort and categorize sales data.

In the course of our interactions with county assessment staff, we recognized that some counties have developed and instituted methods that, when shared, promote uniform and equitable property tax assessments. During our study, we identified essential elements in evaluating whether a process has achieved "best practice" status. These essential elements are documentary evidence, organizational accountability, and compliance function. We examined each county's entire sales validation process, including the administrative process, policies and procedures, and the methodology used to maximize the effectiveness of the process.

The "best practice" processes and actions we identified included:

- ◆ Procedure manual development -- Pierce County.
- ◆ Personnel education -- Pierce County.
- ◆ Single-point review -- Snohomish County, Jefferson County, and Okanogan County.
- ◆ Informational sources -- Pierce County, and Snohomish County.
- ◆ Sales data collection methodology -- Pierce County and Pacific County.

Our goal was to provide information that other counties can draw from. We recognize that each county operates within a distinct setting, yet we hope that the report will provide at least one feature that all administrators can draw from.

We would like to thank the participating counties for their cooperation and willingness to share the information with the rest of the assessment community. I would also like to thank the team volunteers—Mike Braaten, Sindy Parshall, Omar Medina, Scott Sampson, Rob Brice, Karen Clark, and Pat Baxter—for all their hard work and assistance with this project.◆



### Spring forward....Fall back....

It's ingrained in our consciousness almost as much as the A B C's or our spelling reminder of "i before e...."

But in Fall 2007, **Daylight Saving Time is extended one month** and lasts until 2 a.m. on the **First Sunday of November**.

Remember to turn your clocks back, and while you're at it, change the batteries in your smoke alarm too.◆

### This Quarter's Reminders

*(Continued from page 2)*

#### October 3

Boards of County Commissioners begin hearings on county budgets, commissioners adopt budgets and fix necessary levies. (RCW 36.40.070, 080, and 090) However, budget hearings may be held on first Monday in December. (RCW 36.40.071)

#### October 31

Last day for payment of second half of taxes. (RCW 84.56.020)

#### November 30

Last day for city and other taxing district budgets to be filed with clerks of Board of County Commissioners. (RCW 84.52.020)

#### November 30

Last day for Boards of Commissioners to certify to county assessors amount of taxes levied upon property in county for county purposes, and the respective amount of taxes levied by the board of each taxing district. (RCW 84.52.070) Also, the governing body of each taxing district authorized to levy taxes directly shall certify to county assessor amount of taxes levied for district purposes. (RCW 84.52.070)

#### December 1

An additional penalty of eight percent will be assessed on the current year's taxes delinquent on December 1. (RCW 84.56.020)◆

## 2007 Upcoming Training

(State/County Personnel ONLY)

**September 11-12**  
Basic Levy Training  
Tumwater — Free

**September 13**  
Senior Levy Training  
Tumwater — Free

**September 18**  
Senior Levy Training  
Moses Lake — Free

**September 19**  
Basic Senior Exemption Training  
Moses Lake — \$75

**September 20**  
Senior Exemption Admin. Workshop  
Moses Lake — \$50

**September 24-28**  
Principles of Industrial Valuation  
Tumwater — \$300

**September 26**  
Basic Senior Exemption Training  
Tumwater — \$75

**September 27**  
Senior Exemption Admin. Workshop  
Tumwater — \$50

**October 22-26**  
IAAO — Course 101 Basic Appraisal  
Tumwater — \$200

**October 22-26**  
IAAO—Course 102 Income Approach  
Tumwater — \$200

**November 5-9**  
IAAO — Course 300 Mass Appraisal  
Tumwater — \$300

For further information, contact Patty Concepcion, Education Coordinator, by phone at (360) 570-5866 or by e-mail at [PattyC@dor.wa.gov](mailto:PattyC@dor.wa.gov). ♦

## Staff Changes at Property Tax

**Cindy Boswell** has been promoted to supervisor of the County Performance and Administration Program. She has been with the Department of Revenue since 1983, working as an appraiser in the Intercounty Equalization Program, an appraiser in the Utilities Section, a leadworker/appraiser in the Ratio Program, and most recently as the agency's revaluation specialist. In these roles, Cindy has developed strong working relationships with assessors, as well as with her co-workers. Cindy is based in Wenatchee and may be reached at (509) 663-9747 or by e-mail at [CindyB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:CindyB@dor.wa.gov).



Cindy Boswell



Mike Braaten

**Mike Braaten** accepted a promotion to supervisor of the Exemption and Deferral Programs this Spring. Mike graduated from the University of Washington (*Go Huskies & Pearl Jam!*) with a degree in political science. He began his state career as a legislative assistant in 1992 and joined DOR in 1996. For his ten years with Property Tax, Mike has set the standard for customer service and technical expertise. Mike's new phone number in Olympia is (360) 570-5862 and his e-mail remains [MichaelB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MichaelB@dor.wa.gov).

**Leslie Mullin** was recently promoted to a Property & Acquisition Specialist 4 position in the Ratio Program. Leslie, a University of Alaska grad, began her DOR career with the Compliance Division in 2002. She joined the Property Tax Division almost three years ago, working with property tax levies and then personal property auditing. Leslie will continue to show her versatility, assisting with studies, updating guidelines, teaching, facilitating, and handling whatever comes her way in the Ratio Program. Leslie can be contacted in Olympia at (360) 570-5897 or by e-mail at [LeslieMu@dor.wa.gov](mailto:LeslieMu@dor.wa.gov).



Leslie Mullin



Sindy Parshall

In the Exemption & Deferrals Section, **Sindy Parshall** was promoted to nonprofit exemption specialist and lead auditor. Sindy came to us in 2005 from the real estate and property management world. She has experience in all of our exemption programs and keeps the Exemption Section lively with her positive attitude. Sindy will be the operational lead for our exemption systems and daily processes. She will continue to audit nonprofit and tribal exemptions. Sindy can be reached at (360) 570-5870 or by e-mail at [SindyP@dor.wa.gov](mailto:SindyP@dor.wa.gov).

In the Spokane Field Office, **Chris Baker** has joined Property Tax as our eastern Washington exemption auditor. Chris served with the US Marine Corps and has an Economics degree from Eastern Washington University (*the Eagles*). He comes to us after three years of service in the Compliance Division of DOR. Chris could turn up just about anywhere on the East side, patrolling the world of nonprofit exempt properties. Chris can be contacted at (509) 327-0278 or by e-mail at [ChrisBa@dor.wa.gov](mailto:ChrisBa@dor.wa.gov).

**Omar Medina** has accepted a promotion to appraisal specialist with the Valuation Advisory Team. Omar attended the University of Washington and worked as an appraiser for the King County Department of Assessments. He joined the Property Tax Division in 1999 as a ratio appraiser and has experience in appraising personal property, current use properties, and industrial properties. Based in the Wenatchee Field Office, Omar proudly represents the purple and gold on the eastside. Omar can be reached at (509) 663-9746 or by e-mail at [OmarM@dor.wa.gov](mailto:OmarM@dor.wa.gov).

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## Staff Changes at Property Tax (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

Our new exemption auditor is **John Samuelson**. Working out of the Everett Field Office, John covers the Northwestern counties for nonprofit exemptions. John comes to us from the mortgage lending industry and has six years experience as a financial examiner for the Department of Financial Institutions. John's accounting degree is from the University of Washington (*Go Damgs!*). John and his family live in Bothell, with serious roots in the Olympia area. John's new phone number is (425) 356-4851 and his e-mail is [JohnSa@dor.wa.gov](mailto:JohnSa@dor.wa.gov).



John Samuelson

**Mark Studer** joined the Ratio Program in August as a personal property appraiser. He will be based in the Olympia office and will be heavily involved in data collection and analysis of ratio data. Mark, a Certified Residential Appraiser, has over 15 years experience in appraisal. He has lived, worked, and operated businesses in the Grays Harbor area. Mark can be contacted at (360) 570-5883 or by e-mail at [MarkS@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MarkS@dor.wa.gov).



Dean Ando

Our newest appraisal specialist on the Valuation Advisory Team is **Dean Ando**. Dean came to us in August from the Pierce County Assessor/Treasurer's Office where he was an accomplished trainer, teacher, and industrial appraiser. His BA in Economics is from Claremont McKenna College in California (*the Stag's*). Working out of the Olympia office, Dean brings 20 years of appraisal expertise and valuable appeals experience at both the county Board of Equalization and the state Board of Tax Appeals. Dean may be reached at (360) 570-5901 or by e-mail at [DeanA@dor.wa.gov](mailto:DeanA@dor.wa.gov).

Earlier this year **Carl Klingeman** accepted a promotion to be an appraiser with the Valuation Advisory Team. Carl first started his career with Revenue in the Audit Division in 1987. He moved over to Property Tax in 1993 working in the Ratio Program. Carl continues to work out of the Spokane Field Office and can be reached at (509) 327-0277 or by e-mail at [CarlK@dor.wa.gov](mailto:CarlK@dor.wa.gov).



Carl Klingeman

**Erin Valz** will soon begin work with the County Performance & Administration Program in our Olympia office. This is a four-year project position linked to improving the ability of counties to convert to an annual revaluation cycle. Erin is a graduate of Western Washington University with a degree in mathematics and an emphasis in statistics and computer science. Erin's experience includes statistical analysis, report writing, research, data mining, and the integration of incoming data from multiple government agencies. Erin can be contacted at (360) 570-5878 or by e-mail at [ErinV@dor.wa.gov](mailto:ErinV@dor.wa.gov).

We just welcomed **Vicky Carr** as she joined the County Performance & Administration Program in a four-year project position linked to improving the ability of counties to convert to an annual revaluation cycle. She is working out of our Olympia office. Vicky is a graduate of the University of Washington with an earth science background. She is a state Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser who has provided private appraisal services in many areas of Western Washington. Vicky can be reached at (360) 570-5899 or by e-mail at [VickyC@dor.wa.gov](mailto:VickyC@dor.wa.gov).

**Vickie Glover**, an exemption auditor in eastern Washington for over 19 years, retired a few months ago and is living the good life at her home in Spokane. The Governor granted her the best exemption of all – no more getting up early to go to work! Vicki remains a friend, mentor and advisor to all of us at property tax. She retired as the undisputed Queen of Nonprofit Exemptions.



Vickie Glover



Brent Wilde

“Gone fishing” is the sign taped to the desk of **Brent Wilde**, who recently retired from the Valuation Advisory Team in the Everett Field Office. Brent had built up considerable public service time with the King County Department of Assessments prior to joining the Property Tax Division in 2002. Brent brought tremendous appraisal experience and expertise to the Division. However, you cannot hold on for long to a man with 18 fly-rods in the closet gathering dust.

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## Staff Changes at Property Tax (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

**Joyce Marciel**, our long time exemption auditor for the Northwest counties, is “on probation” from property tax. Actually, Joyce recently took a promotion to an audit/accounting position with the Department of Corrections. We can’t visit her there, but they let her out every couple of weeks so she can bring us vegetables from her garden or provide cooking hints. She doesn’t work here anymore, but remains part of our extended Property Tax family. ♦



Joyce Marciel

## Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

**Nonprofit Exemptions** — Our audit staff processes these exemptions statewide. Chapter 84.36 RCW provides exemption for many properties owned or used by nonprofit organizations. The best known exemptions are for churches, social services, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, very low-income housing, museums, public assembly halls, and homes for the aging. A comprehensive list is available in our *Application for Nonprofit Exemption (DOR form REV 63 0001)*. These exemptions are generally based on the specific activity for which property is used. For forms or basic questions about applications, please contact Kevin Timson at (360) 570-5871 or by e-mail at [KevinT@dor.wa.gov](mailto:KevinT@dor.wa.gov). Kevin will help directly or connect you with the exemption auditor that services the geographical area the property is in. More complex or sensitive questions should go to Sindy Parshall, Non-profit Specialist, at (360) 570-5870, e-mail [SindyP@dor.wa.gov](mailto:SindyP@dor.wa.gov) or Mike Braaten, Exemptions Supervisor, at (360) 570-5862, e-mail [MichaelB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MichaelB@dor.wa.gov).



**Senior Exemption & Deferral** — The exemption for Senior Citizens/Disabled Persons and the related Deferral Program are processed by the local assessor’s office (chapter 458-16A WAC). The actual payments for deferred taxes are made by the Department. The Department provides regular training and daily assistance to assessors’ staff and taxpayers on these programs. Contact Peggy Davis at (360) 570-5867 or by e-mail at [PeggyD@dor.wa.gov](mailto:PeggyD@dor.wa.gov).

**Property Tax Exemption**  
for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons

**Property Tax Deferral**  
for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons

**Widows/Widowers of Disabled Veterans Benefit Program** — This is a supplemental grant program to give the widows and widowers of disabled veterans extra help in paying their property taxes. Grants are based on how much tax relief the applicant gets from the Senior Exemption Program and local tax rates. The grants are determined and paid by the Department. Contact Sindy Parshall at (360) 570-5870 or by e-mail at [SindyP@dor.wa.gov](mailto:SindyP@dor.wa.gov).

Property Tax Assistance Program  
for **Widows**  
or **Widowers**  
of **Veterans**

**Tribal Exemption – Essential Government Services** — Certain lands owned in fee by recognized Tribes can be exempt if they are held for essential government services (RCW 84.36.010 and WAC 458-16-1000). Application for this exemption is made to the Department and processed by our section. Contact Sindy Parshall at (360) 570-5870 or by e-mail at [SindyP@dor.wa.gov](mailto:SindyP@dor.wa.gov).

**Government Exemptions** — Most property owned by government is exempt from property taxes under RCW 84.36.010. Property leased by state and local governments is usually taxable. The local assessor determines whether property is owned by an exempt government organization. This can be a difficult analysis and decision at times because not every “public agency” is exempt. The Department may be able to help, offering our opinion and support to the county officials making the call. Contact Mike Braaten at (360) 570-5862 or by e-mail at [MichaelB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MichaelB@dor.wa.gov).

**Housing Exemptions** — Chapter 84.14 RCW grants exemption to new or rehabilitated housing in certain urban settings. This exemption was modified in the last Legislative Session to include “affordable” housing options. Chapter 84.26 RCW provides special valuations for rehabilitated historical buildings. Both of these programs are administered at the local level, involving both the municipality and the assessor’s office. Contact Mike Braaten at (360) 570-5862 or by e-mail at [MichaelB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MichaelB@dor.wa.gov).

Questions about any other exemptions could go to Mike Braaten at (360) 570-5862 ([MichaelB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:MichaelB@dor.wa.gov)) or Harold Smith at (360) 570-5864 ([HaroldS@dor.wa.gov](mailto:HaroldS@dor.wa.gov)). We’ll either help directly or get the right team of people to assist with the answer. ♦

## *Leasehold Excise Tax Distribution to Local Jurisdictions*

By Barney Veenstra, Special Programs Division

Counties receive a bimonthly local tax distribution for leasehold excise tax paid by persons or businesses using or leasing publicly owned property that is exempt from property tax. The leasehold excise tax rate is 12.84 percent of the rent paid for the property. Of this rate, approximately 53 percent of the tax goes into the state general fund and the remaining 47 percent is returned to the county and city in which the leased property is located. For fiscal year 2006, \$19,825,296.00 was distributed to the local jurisdictions.

Leasehold excise tax is paid by lessees of publicly owned property in lieu of property tax. There is a provision to allow a credit against the leasehold tax if it would exceed the amount of property tax due. Because of this, it is important that the assessed values of publicly owned properties are as current as the privately owned properties. Individuals paying leasehold tax may request a refund when the comparable property tax (calculated using assessed value) is lower than the amount of leasehold tax paid. To maintain the leasehold tax base, counties should include all property in their annual appraisals. As the table below shows, this is a significant source of tax revenue for counties and surrounding cities. For questions or comments, please contact Barney Veenstra, Department of Revenue, Special Programs Division, at (360) 570-3200 or by e-mail at [BarneyV@dor.wa.gov](mailto:BarneyV@dor.wa.gov). ♦

| <b>LOCAL LEASEHOLD EXCISE TAX DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                     |                     |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>County</b>                                  | <b>County</b>      | <b>Cities</b>       | <b>Total</b>        |
| Adams  | \$29,513           | \$494               | \$30,007            |
| Asotin   | 7,995              | 9,825               | 17,820              |
| Benton   | 293,527            | 231,604             | 525,131             |
| Chelan   | 116,235            | 33,317              | 149,552             |
| Clallam  | 102,873            | 154,266             | 257,139             |
| Clark  | 458,571            | 706,826             | 1,165,397           |
| Columbia                                       | 9,833              | 3,366               | 13,199              |
| Cowlitz  | 172,064            | 53,548              | 225,612             |
| Douglas  | 53,618             | 3,693               | 57,311              |
| Ferry  | 595                | 189                 | 784                 |
| Franklin                                       | 153,645            | 162,231             | 315,876             |
| Garfield                                       | 4,234              | 2,127               | 6,361               |
| Grant  | 321,704            | 29,831              | 351,535             |
| Grays Harbor                                   | 125,250            | 90,352              | 215,602             |
| Island   | 25,407             | 30,127              | 55,534              |
| Jefferson                                      | 81,904             | 91,629              | 173,533             |
| King   | 3,253,609          | 6,310,860           | 9,564,469           |
| Kitsap   | 205,347            | 78,269              | 283,616             |
| Kittitas                                       | 39,099             | 18,482              | 57,581              |
| Klickitat                                      | 34,802             | 490                 | 35,292              |
| Lewis  | 66,526             | 61,724              | 128,250             |
| Lincoln  | 18,003             | 189                 | 18,192              |
| Mason  | 83,631             | 9,572               | 93,203              |
| Okanogan                                       | 27,505             | 7,527               | 35,032              |
| Pacific  | 38,424             | 33,154              | 71,578              |
| Pend Oreille                                   | 1,493              | 1,325               | 2,818               |
| Pierce   | 869,353            | 1,208,934           | 2,078,287           |
| San Juan                                       | 51,944             | 58,318              | 110,262             |
| Skagit   | 246,956            | 270,019             | 516,975             |
| Skamania                                       | 26,776             | 15,838              | 42,614              |
| Snohomish                                      | 931,324            | 660,593             | 1,591,917           |
| Spokane  | 174,090            | 66,532              | 240,622             |
| Stevens  | 3,178              | 1,038               | 4,216               |
| Thurston                                       | 113,201            | 193,330             | 306,531             |
| Wahkiakum                                      | 9,640              | 0                   | 9,640               |
| Walla Walla                                    | 146,194            | 60,630              | 206,824             |
| Whatcom  | 287,223            | 396,612             | 683,835             |
| Whitman  | 83,103             | 31,785              | 114,888             |
| Yakima   | 49,689             | 18,572              | 68,261              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>\$8,718,078</b> | <b>\$11,107,218</b> | <b>\$19,825,296</b> |

## *Accreditation Data Going On-line*

**By Velinda Brown, Education Specialist**

The Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division, together with the Taxpayer Services and Information Systems Divisions, are proud to announce that we will be launching an on-line Accreditation Data System in October. The system will provide the public and accredited appraisers (predominately county assessor personnel) with access to portions of our Accreditation Database showing their profile, accreditation status, education history, and it will allow the public to view a listing of accredited appraisers along with their status.

The current Accreditation System is only available to internal Property Tax Division staff. The system resides on an internal server and tracks appraisers' accreditation status, courses, and course participants. Appraisers wishing to retrieve information about their Accreditation status currently call Property Tax staff to request the information. The new on-line system will expand the availability of the data in the Accreditation System. The general public will be able to search for a list of accredited appraisers, and accredited appraisers will be able to view their course history, contact information, and current Accreditation status on-line once they have completed an authentication process.

Accredited appraisers will be required to create an account through a single-site logon. The Property Tax Division will be sending each accredited appraiser a letter with instructions on how to set up their accounts.

Questions on the new on-line Accreditation System can be directed to Velinda Brown at (360) 570-5865 or via e-mail at [VelindaB@dor.wa.gov](mailto:VelindaB@dor.wa.gov). ♦

### ***Join Our Newsletter Distribution List***

To be notified when new editions of our quarterly newsletter are available, simply visit the link below and join our e-mail distribution list. Get articles on a variety of property tax-related topics, a current listing of training opportunities available to assessment personnel, legislative updates, a staff contact list for the Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division, and more.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/SecureForms/Content/contactus/Email/listservEmail.aspx>

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