

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS--2004

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 2004 (TABLES 1 AND 2)

Property taxes levied in 2003 and due in 2004 were \$6,580.1 million, increasing \$266 million, or 4.2 percent, from the amount due in 2003. Collections of taxes due in 2004 totaled \$6,432.2 million, increasing \$308.2 million, or 5.0 percent, from 2003. The collection response rate in 2004 of 97.8 percent was up from the 97.0 percent rate in 2003.

During the year, tax roll additions (omitted property, property removed from exempt status, and new structures not previously on the rolls) exceeded tax roll cancellations (transfer to exempt status, correction of errors, destroyed property, and uncollectible accounts) by \$22.2 million. The resulting year-end unpaid balance was \$170.1 million, down \$16.6 million from 2003. This amount equaled 2.6 percent of the 2004 tax roll.

King County led all counties last year with a 99.2 percent collection response. Columbia County followed with 98.9 percent and Garfield County with 98.7 percent. All together, 36 counties reported collection rates of 95 percent or above, leaving 3 counties collecting less than 95 percent.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 3 AND 4)

Delinquent taxes (taxes on the rolls previous to the 2004 tax year) were \$309.2 million. Of this amount, plus additions, \$181.8 million was collected during the year. The statewide response rate is 58.8 percent.

Thirty-three counties had a 50 percent or better collection rate in 2004 which remains the same as in 2003. For 2004, 13 counties had delinquent collection rates of 60 percent or greater which is the same number of counties as in 2003.

CURRENT AND DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 5 AND 6)

The combined amount of current and delinquent taxes due in 2004 for all 39 counties was \$6,889.4 million. Collections totaled \$6,613.9 million, 96 percent of the total due. At the end of 2004, delinquent taxes were \$288.4 million, up \$20.1 million, a decrease of 6.5 percent from 2003. Although the collection of current taxes was 97.4 percent (as noted above), the collection rate was 100.5 percent of current roll, taking into account both current and delinquent taxes.