

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS--2008

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 2008 (TABLES 1 AND 2)

Property taxes levied in 2007 and due in 2008 were \$8,286 million, increasing \$465 million, or 5.9 percent, from the amount due in 2007. Collections of taxes due in 2008 totaled \$8,096 million, increasing \$454 million, or 5.9 percent, from 2007. The 97.7 percent collection response rate in 2008 is the same as the 2007 rate.

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 \$2.4 million. The resulting year-end unpaid balance was \$215 million, up about \$33.6 million from 2007. This amount equaled 2.6 percent of the 2008 tax roll.

Garfield County led all counties last year with a 99.3 percent collection response. King County followed with a 98.9 percent collection response. All together, 36 counties reported collection rates of 95 percent or above, leaving three counties collecting less than 95 percent. The lowest rate of collection was 94.1 percent.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 3 AND 4)

Delinquent taxes (taxes on the rolls previous to the 2008 tax year) were \$263 million. Of this amount, plus additions, \$158 million was collected during the year. The statewide response rate was 60.2 percent.

Thirty-six counties had a 50 percent or better collection rate in 2008 which is the same amount as in 2007. For 2008, ten counties had delinquent collection rates of 60 percent or greater which is down from 17 counties in 2007.

CURRENT AND DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES (TABLES 5 AND 6)

The combined amount of current and delinquent taxes due in 2008 for all 39 counties was \$8,549 million. Collections totaled \$8,254 million, 96.6 percent of the total due. At the end of 2008, delinquent taxes were \$311.8 million, up \$49.5 million, an increase of 18.9 percent from 2007. Although the collection of current taxes was 97.7 percent (as noted above), the collection rate was 99.6 percent of current roll, taking into account both current and delinquent taxes.