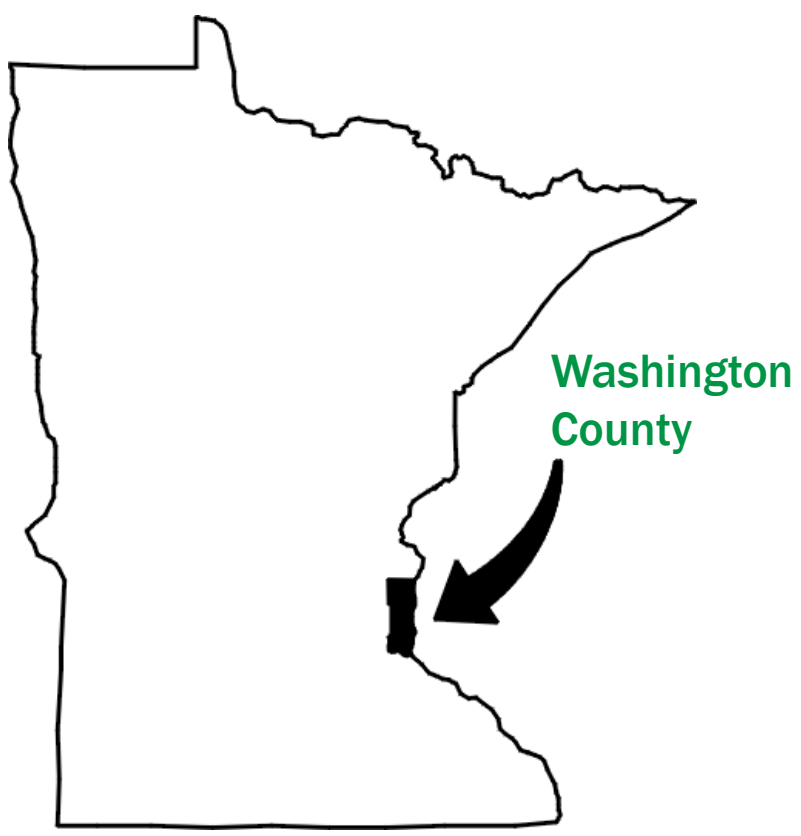




Budget Briefing

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Washington County Government Center
Office of Administration
14949 62nd Street North
P.O. Box 6
Stillwater, MN 55082



Demographics	
Population (2015):	251,015
Median Age (2014):	38.7
Median Household Income (2014):	\$83,182
School Enrollment (2014):	67,419
Unemployment Rate (2015):	3.2%
Proposed Tax Capacity Rate (2017):	30.435%
Estimated Market Value (2017):	\$245,000
Estimated County Tax (2017):	\$709

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I N D E X

Mission

Providing
quality
services
through
responsible
leadership,
innovation,
and the
cooperation of
dedicated people

Vision

A great place to
live, work, and
play...today
and tomorrow

Washington County, Minnesota

Washington County rests on approximately 424 square miles of land, runs more than 40 miles in length, and encompasses 585 major water bodies. The county seat is located in Stillwater, Minnesota, along the scenic St. Croix River. There are 27 cities, 6 townships, 7 watershed districts, and 10 independent school districts all or partially located in Washington County.

Counties have always played an important role in Minnesota local government. Although the form has not changed significantly since their inception, the services and programs have greatly expanded. County government has a dual role of providing state services at the local level, as well as being a unit of local self-government. Within this construct, counties offer programming and services in General Government Services; Justice and Public Safety; Public Works; Health and Human Services; and Conservation, Development, Recreation, and Culture.

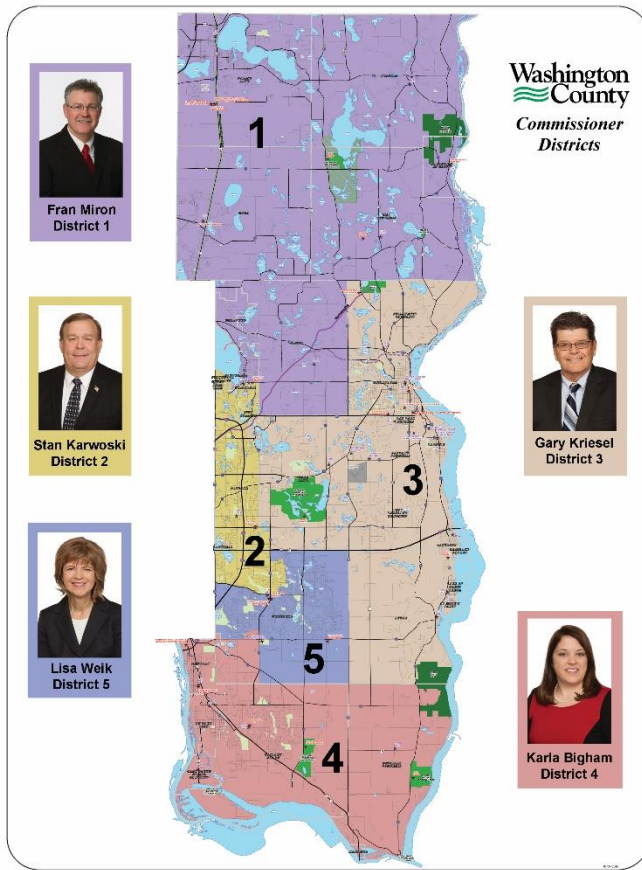
Washington County is committed to sound management and financial reporting. The annual budget development process emphasizes providing sufficient funding for high-quality services and programs. This budget briefing document is a condensed, non-technical description of Washington County Government and its budget. The county's fiscal year runs January 1 through December 31.

The 2017 budget reflects the hard work, cooperation, and dedication of county elected officials, department directors, and staff. The key message embodied within the 2017 budget is providing high-quality core services and programs, building on prior years' focus of structural alignment, capacity, and future financial flexibility, and designing models that address current issues and trends.

Washington County's mission is "Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation, and the cooperation of dedicated people." The county is fortunate to be in a strong fiscal position, which allows for continued development of streamlined processes that continue the Washington County mission and makes the county a great place to live, work, and play!

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Elected Officials



The five-member Washington County Board of Commissioners are elected from five districts on a non-partisan basis for staggered four-year terms. The County Attorney and County Sheriff are also elected to serve four-year terms. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board. The Commissioners' meetings are on the first four Tuesdays of each month in the fifth-floor Board Room of the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater. The public is encouraged to attend all meetings.

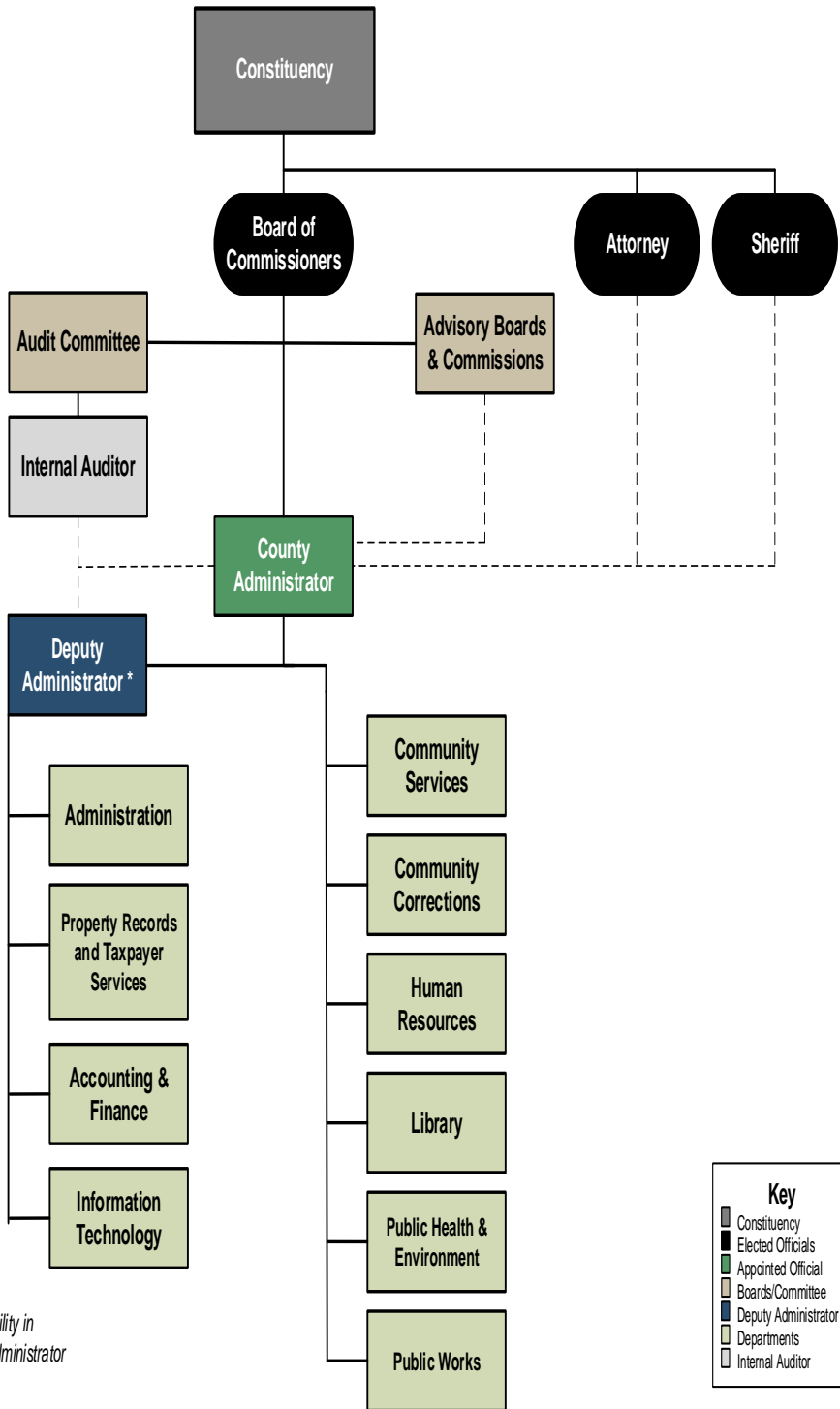
County Attorney:
County Sheriff:
County Administrator:

Peter Orput
William Hutton
Molly O'Rourke

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Organization Chart



* Assumes Responsibility in Absence of County Administrator

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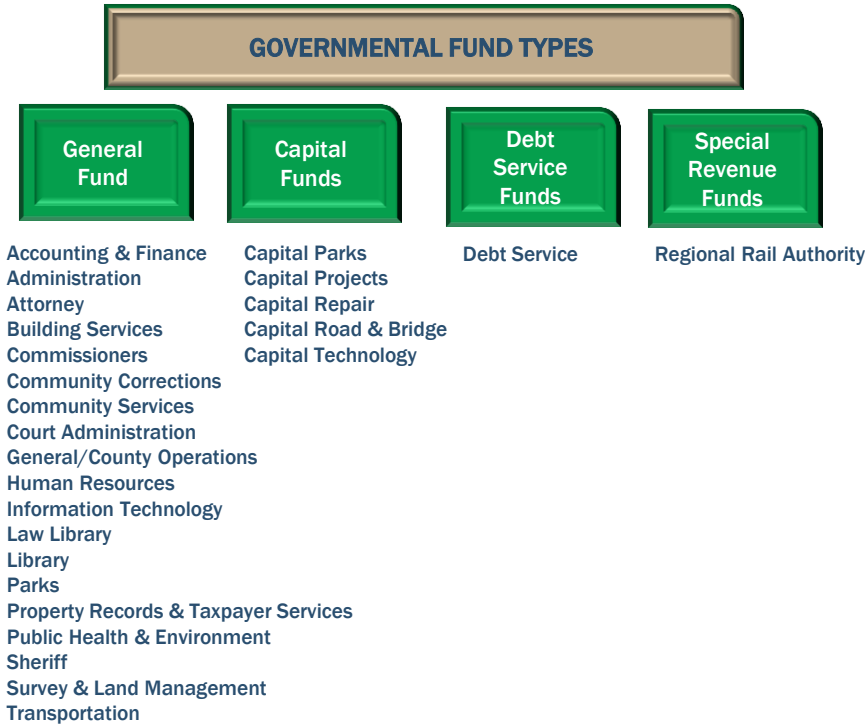
- Constituency
- Elected Officials
- Appointed Official
- Boards/Committee
- Deputy Administrator
- Departments
- Internal Auditor

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Fund Structure

Under state law, the County Board must adopt a budget no later than five working days after December 20th each year. The County Board adopts and appropriates budgets for the following governmental funds: General, Capital, Debt Service, and Special Revenue funds, all consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.



What is “budgetary basis”?

Washington County uses a modified accrual basis of budgeting for all funds, which is the same as the basis of accounting used in the county’s audited financial statements.

Basis of budgeting refers to the method used to determine when revenues and expenditures are recognized for budgetary purposes. For example, if the budget anticipates revenues on a cash basis, the accounting system will record only cash revenues as receipts and records expenditures when incurred. Conversely, if the budget uses a modified accrual basis, the accounting system will recognize revenues when they are measurable and available, and expenditures when incurred.

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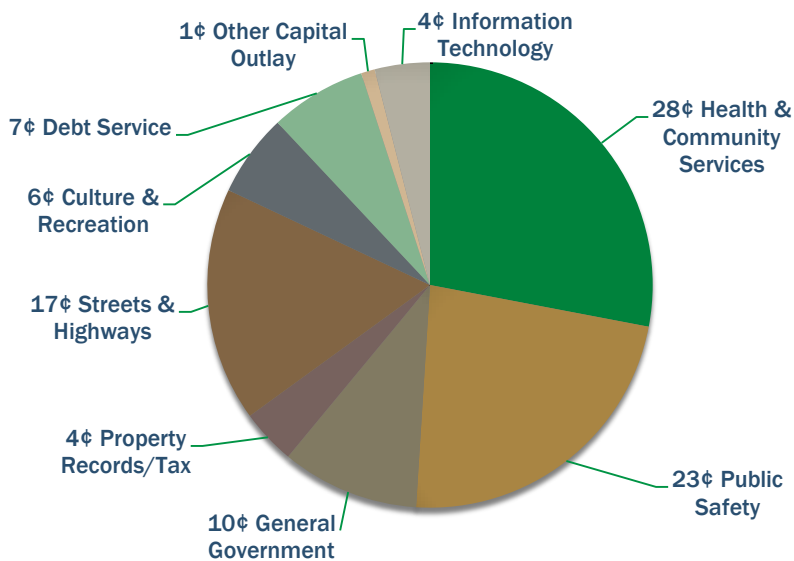
Tax Information

The 2017 levy increase is 3.49 percent, the same increase requested for county taxes paid in 2015 and 2016. However the county's tax base has grown 3 percent over the past year, and the new construction, valued at \$364 million, will absorb the majority of that levy increase.

Home Valued at \$245,000 for Pay 2017 (assuming a 1.1% value increase from 2016 to 2017)				
Levy Type	2017 Net Levy Change	County Property Tax Payable 2016	Estimated County Property Tax Payable 2017	Change 2016 – 2017
General	3.49%	\$693	\$699	\$ 6
LWLP	0%	\$ 9	\$ 9	\$ 0
Total	3.49%	\$702	\$708	\$ 6 (+.08%)

The county receives 23 cents of each property tax dollar paid; the rest goes to cities, schools, and other taxing districts.

How does the county spend each dollar it receives?

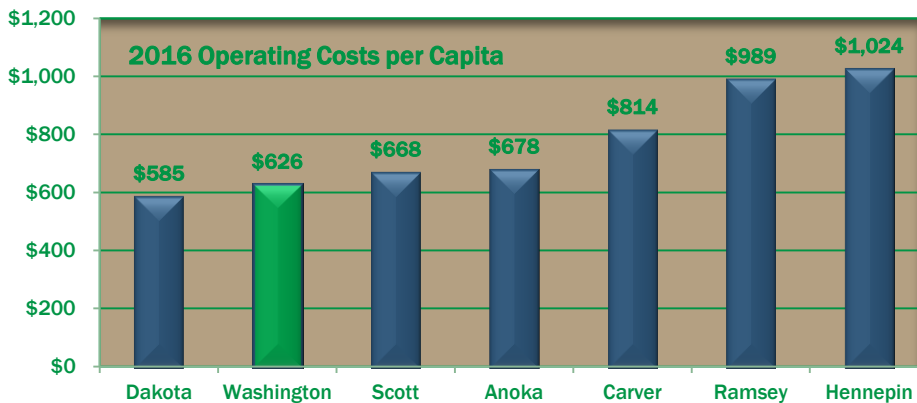
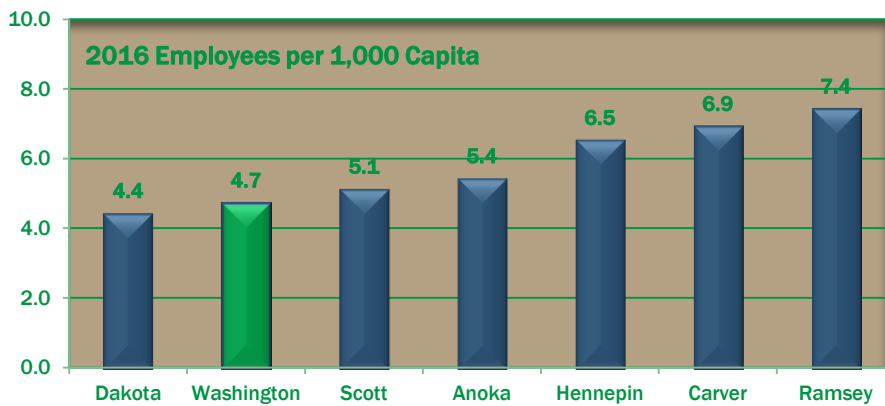
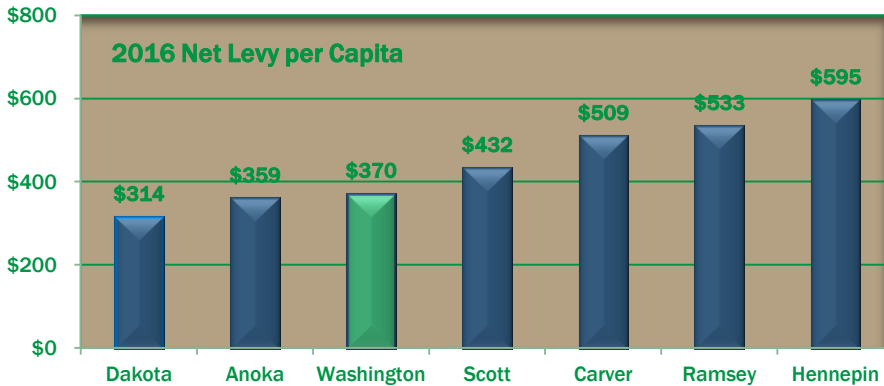


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County Comparisons

Washington County is part of the “7-County Metropolitan Area”. The most recent data available (2016), as provided by each county to the Minnesota State Auditor’s Office, identifies the county as having one of the best rankings in the metro area, as well as statewide. Similar rankings are anticipated for 2017 as well.



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Budget Principles

- Operating and capital budget decisions should support and reflect the county's vision, mission, and goals.
- Focus resources on core county functions that improve outcomes and technology improvements that increase efficiencies.
- Make strategic investments in our human resources to attract and retain a qualified workforce.
- Adopt a sustainable budget that does not use one-time or unreliable funding to pay for ongoing costs.
- Maximize and efficiently use state and federal revenue to fund mandated services and advocate for additional state and federal funding if current revenues do not fully fund the mandated services.
- Maximize the use of non-property tax revenues, including seeking federal and state grants, where appropriate.
- The budget should address the county's current needs, and position the county to meet the future needs of a growing, aging, and diversifying population.
- Consider changes in the county's tax base, potential change in tax rate, tax impact on property owners, population, inflation, service delivery changes, and economic trends affecting county property taxpayers when adopting the property tax levy.
- Plan and fund investments in the capital assets of the county that maximize the use and life of our assets and spreads the costs to those that benefit.
- Adhere to fund balance, debt service, and other financial policies to ensure the ongoing financial health of the county and protection of the county's AAA bond ratings.

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Total County Revenues and Expenditures

The 2017 budget for Washington County is a “stay the course” stable budget, one that builds on initiatives the county began in 2016 in environmental programs, parks and road construction, jail security, and safety net programs. Non-levy revenue is expected to be \$102.5 million, an increase of 8.9 percent from 2016. The recommended budget calls for operating expenses of \$165 million, an increase of 5.2 percent from 2016.

2017 REVENUES	
County Net Levy	\$96,056,900
Referendum Levy	\$1,058,400
Subtotal: Certified Levy	\$97,115,300
Regional Rail Levy	\$776,800
County Program Aid	\$9,113,400
Subtotal: Gross Levy	\$107,005,500
Non-Levy Revenue	\$102,464,200
Other Financing Sources	\$3,437,600
Planned Use/(Contribution of Fund Balance	(\$1,671,500)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$211,235,800

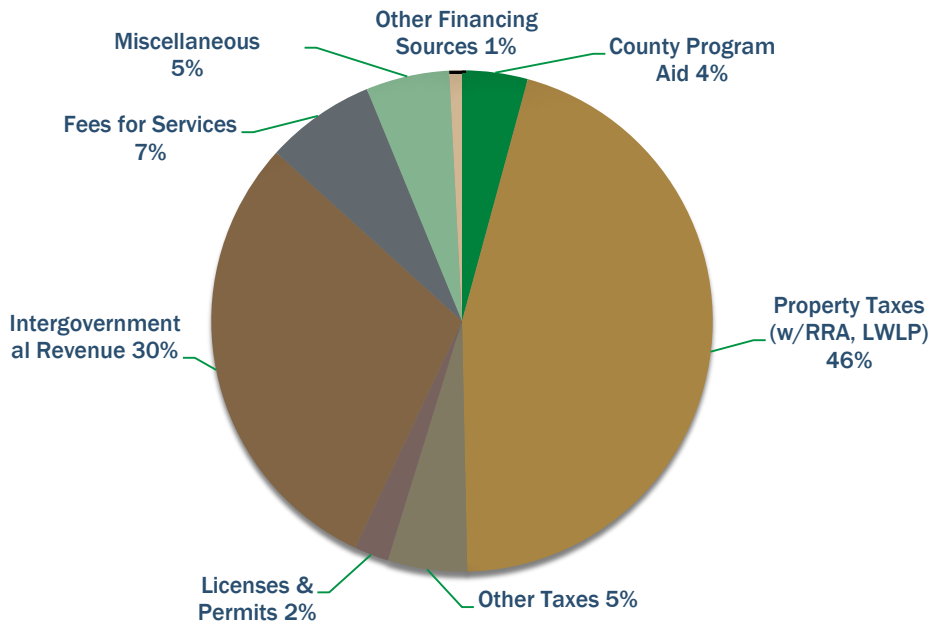
2017 EXPENDITURES	
Client/Citizen Related Support	\$18,427,300
Personnel Services	\$107,346,600
Services & Charges	\$32,096,200
Materials & Supplies	\$7,404,800
Subtotal: County Operations	\$165,274,900
Capital	\$28,243,100
Debt	\$15,396,000
Other Financing Uses	\$2,321,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$211,235,800

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Revenues by Category -

\$211,235,800



Other Financing Sources (\$1.8M) includes interfund transfers, use of bond proceeds, planned use of fund balance, and loan receipts.

County Program Aid (\$9.1M) is revenue aid given to county governments from the State of Minnesota and is intended to reduce property taxes for individual taxpayers.

Property Taxes (\$97.9M) consist of the amount that needs to be collected from property taxes to support the county budget (\$96.1M), the Land & Water Legacy Program, LWLP (\$1.1M), and the Regional Rail Authority, RRA (\$776,800).

Other Taxes (\$11M) consist of delinquent tax collections, mobile home taxes, mortgage registry taxes, gravel taxes, wheelage tax, and all cost, penalty, and interest assessed by law in the collections of taxes.

Licenses & Permits (\$4.8M) are revenues from all businesses, non-businesses, and occupations which must be licensed before doing business within the county's jurisdiction.

Intergovernmental Revenue (\$59.8) consists of funds received from state, federal, or local contributions to the county for specific projects or programs.

Fees for Services (\$15.2M) consist of revenues generated from charges for various services the county may provide.

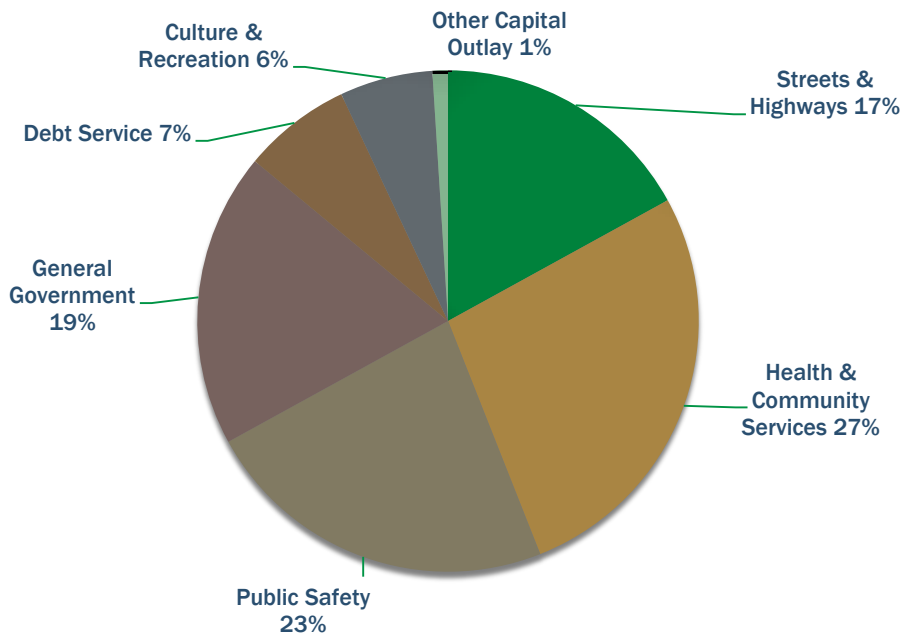
Miscellaneous Revenues (\$11.6M) are those not accounted for in other categories, such as interest earnings on the county's investments, rent revenues, collections from accounts due the county, donations and contributions, and revenues received from fines and penalties imposed for statutory offenses.

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Expenditures by Function -

\$211,235,800



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Other Capital Outlay (\$825k) consists of major capital improvements to county facilities, such as roof replacements, and cooling and heating upgrades.

Streets & Highways (\$36.3M) include the costs of providing safe, dependable, and efficient transportation for all county residents, along with the maintenance and repairs of local highways, streets, bridges, and road construction. Also included are capital road and bridge projects funded through the use of bond proceeds.

Health & Community Services (\$56.4M) encompass health and community services provided with the purpose of promoting the general health and well-being of the community, including restaurant inspections, recycling, communicable disease control, and public assistance and care for individuals who may be unable to provide for themselves.

Public Safety (\$48.4M) are services provided by the county for the safety and security of the public.

General Government (\$41.2M) includes services not represented in any other category which are provided by the county for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole; also includes mandated county support to court administration.

Debt Service (\$15.4M) represents the principal and interest payments on the county's bonded debt.

Culture & Recreation (\$12.8M) consists of the costs of operating county Libraries, Parks, and the county's Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP).

Budgets by Function and Department

Culture & Recreation :		\$12,816,300	
Parks	\$4,909,700		
Law Library	\$310,100		
Libraries	\$7,455,200		
MN Extension	\$141,300		
Debt Service:		\$15,396,000	
Principal	\$8,275,000		
Interest	\$7,121,000		
General Government:		\$41,186,800	
Administration	\$1,789,200		
Accounting & Finance	\$1,989,400		
Building Services	\$9,403,000		
Court Administration	\$2,423,900		
Economic Development	\$3,570,400		
General Operations	\$4,080,200		
Human Resources	\$1,718,700		
Information Technology	\$6,991,600		
Property Records & Taxpayer Services	\$9,220,400		
Health & Community Services:		\$56,359,900	
Health Services:			
Administrative	\$1,202,000		
Disease Prevention & Control	\$810,500		
Environmental Services	\$2,558,100		
Family Health	\$2,232,400		
Health Promotion	\$1,194,100		
Solid & Hazardous Waste	\$7,080,700		
Skilled Nursing Services	\$961,800		
Community Services:			
Administrative	\$3,691,100		
Chemical/Mental Health	\$7,217,300		
Economic Support	\$10,845,000		
Social Services	\$18,566,900		
Other Capital Outlay:		\$825,000	
Capital Repair Projects	\$680,000		
Historic Courthouse	\$145,000		
Public Safety:		\$48,367,600	
Attorney's Office:			
Administrative	\$742,200		
Civil Division	\$1,433,300		
Criminal Division	\$2,543,800		
Juvenile Division	\$1,121,200		
Community Corrections:			
Administrative	\$850,000		
Corrections Programs	\$2,413,500		
Pre-Trial Services	\$1,760,100		
Supervision	\$5,585,200		
Sheriff's Office:			
Administrative	\$2,220,300		
Investigations	\$2,133,700		
Jail	\$10,637,200		
Patrol	\$8,037,400		
Public Safety			
Radio System	\$715,100		
Special Services	\$8,174,600		
Streets & Highways:		\$36,284,200	
Public Works	\$11,466,000		
Regional Rail Transit	\$782,300		
Road & Bridge Projects	\$24,035,900		
2017 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET \$211,235,800			

Development of a budget for an organization with as many distinct facets as Washington County is a highly interactive process between multiple stakeholders. The budget is far more than just numbers on a page; it is the primary method by which the County Board sets policy, implements long-term plans, and directs the operations of its government. Washington County Commissioners and officials have prepared a balanced budget to guide the county through 2017. The budget balances the need to continue providing quality core services to residents while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

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County Facilities

LICENSE /SERVICE CENTERS:

Cottage Grove Service Center.....651-430-4075
13000 Ravine Parkway South
Cottage Grove, MN 55106

Forest Lake Service Center.....651-275-7333
19955 Forest Road North
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Stillwater License Center.....651-275-7000
Valley Branch Mall
1520 West Frontage Road
Stillwater, MN 55082

Woodbury Service/License Center.....651-275-8600
2150 Radio Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

LIBRARIES:

Hardwood Creek Branch
19955 Forest Road North
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-275-7300

Hugo Library Express
14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North
Hugo City Hall
Hugo, MN 55038
651-426-2042

Marine Library Express
121 Judd Street
Marine City Hall
Marine, MN 55047
651-275-7300

Newport Library Express
250 Red Rock Crossing
Newport Transit Station
Newport, MN 55055
651-459-2040

Oakdale Branch
1010 Heron Avenue North
Oakdale, MN 55128
651-730-0504

Park Grove Branch
7900 Hemingway Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-459-2040

R.H. Stafford Branch
8595 Central Park Place
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-731-1320

Valley Branch
380 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882

Wildwood Branch
763 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
651-426-2042

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County Facilities

PARKS:

Big Marine Park Reserve
17495 Manning Trail North
Marine, MN 55047
651-430-8200

Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park
9940 Point Douglas Road
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-430-8240

Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
19987 Fitzgerald Trail North
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-430-8370

Lake Elmo Park Reserve
1515 Keats Avenue North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-430-8370

Pine Point Regional Park
11900 Norell Avenue North
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-430-8370

Point Douglas Park
10191 St. Croix Trail South
Hastings, MN 55033
651-430-8240

Square Lake Park
15450 Square Lake Trail North
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-430-8200

St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park
10191 St. Croix Trail South
Hastings, MN 55033
651-430-8240

TRANSIT CENTERS:

Hardwood Creek Transit Center
19987 Fitzgerald Trail North
Forest Lake, MN 55025
651-430-8370

Newport Transit Station
250 Red Rock Crossing
Newport, MN 55055

OTHER FACILITIES:

Environmental Center
4039 Cottage Grove Drive
Woodbury, MN 55129
651-430-6655

Historic Courthouse
101 West Pine Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-275-7075

Nordic Center
1515 Keats Avenue North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Recycling & Energy Center
100 Red Rock Road
Newport, MN 55055

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Our Goals

- To promote the health, safety, and quality of life of citizens
- To provide accessible, high-quality services in a timely and respectful manner
- To address today's needs while proactively planning for the future
- To maintain public trust through responsible use of public resources, accountability, and openness of government

Our Values

- **Ethical:** to ensure public trust through fairness, consistency, and transparency
- **Stewardship:** to demonstrate tangible, cost-effective results and protect public resources
- **Quality:** to ensure that services delivered to the public are up to the organization's highest standards
- **Responsive:** to deliver services that are accessible, timely, respectful, and efficient
- **Respectful:** to believe in and support the dignity and value of all members of this community
- **Leadership:** to actively advocate for and guide the County toward a higher quality of life



GOALS
VALUES

If residents have questions about the 2017 budget, or about Washington County government in general, they are invited to contact their County Commissioner, or the Office of Administration at 651-430-6001, or visit the county website at www.co.washington.mn.us

Visit www.co.washington.mn.us to see what your county does for you!



A great place to live, work, and play...today and tomorrow.