



A Publication of the Washington County Office of Administration

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Minnesota

## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget-in- Brief



## Board of Commissioners

Five commissioners are elected from five districts on a non-partisan basis for staggered 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.

### District 1:

Dennis Hegberg  
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### District 2:

Bill Pulkrabek  
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### District 4:

Autumn Lehrke  
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### District 5:

Lisa Weik  
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### MISSION:

To provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

### VALUES:

- \*Fiscal Responsibility—To provide good stewardship of public funds.
- \*Ethics and Integrity—To maintain the public trust.
- \*Openness of the Process—To promote citizen participation.
- \*Our Heritage and Natural Resources—to conserve and preserve them.
- \*The Individual—To promote dignity and respect.

### 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 the public trust through responsible use of public resources accountability, and openness of government.

### County Administrator:

Jim Schug  
[Jim.schug@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:Jim.schug@co.washington.mn.us)  
651.430.6002

### Deputy County Administrator:

Molly O'Rourke  
[Molly.orourke@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:Molly.orourke@co.washington.mn.us)  
651.430.6003

# Washington County

Washington County is committed to sound management and financial reporting. As evidence of this commitment to prudent management, the county has received the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) each year since 1985. Additionally, the county has received the Government Finance Officers Association's *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* in recognition of solid budgeting practices each year since 1998. The county's bonds are rated AAA from Standard & Poor's bond rating service and Aaa from Moody's bond rating service, the highest possible ratings.

The annual budget development process emphasizes providing sufficient funding for high-quality core services and programs.

The Budget-in-Brief is a condensed, non-technical description of Washington County Government and its budget. The county's fiscal year runs January 1 through December 31.

We look forward to a year of changes, challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments in meeting our citizen's needs.

## Where the Money Comes From

Revenues for use by Washington County are received from many different sources. They are affected by an array of outside forces including State and Federal legislation changes and budget shortfalls. County growth, historical and current trends, and potential legislative changes are all considered when estimating county revenues.

## 2012 Major Revenue Sources

**\$172,829,500**

**Property Taxes (\$87.1M)** consist of the amount in dollars that Washington County needs to collect from property taxes to support the adopted budget.

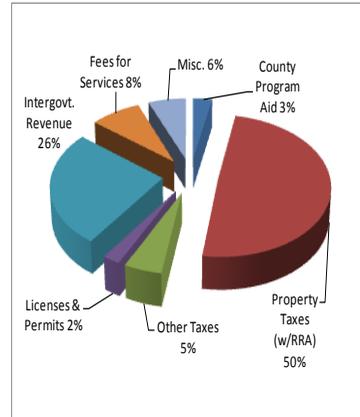
**Intergovernmental Revenues (\$44.2M)** consist of funds received from the state, federal, or local contributions to the county for specific projects or programs.

**Fees for Services (\$12.7M)** consist of revenues generated from charges for various services the county may provide.

**Miscellaneous (\$10.7M)** revenues 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, sale of assets, donations and contributions, and revenues received from fines and penalties imposed for statutory offenses, to name a few.

**Other Taxes (\$8.6M)** 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 collection of taxes.

**County Program Aid (\$5.5M)** is revenue aid given to county governments from the State of Minnesota and is intended to reduce property taxes for individual taxpayers.



**Licenses & Permits (\$4.0M)** are revenues from all businesses, non-businesses, and occupations which must be licensed before doing business within the county's jurisdiction.

## Where the Money Goes

Washington County organizes its expenditures into several functional categories based on the intended use of funds.

## 2012 Major Expenditure Categories

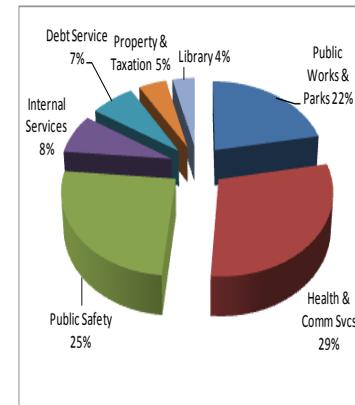
**\$173,360,400**

**Health & Community Services (\$50.3M)** includes major departments of Public Health & Environment and Community Social Services.

**Public Works & Parks (\$37.9M)** includes Road & Bridge construction, Regional Rail Authority, Parks, the Historic Courthouse operations, Survey & Land Management, Building Services, Capital Repairs, and Public Works administration.

**Public Safety (\$43.1M)** includes the County Attorney, Community Corrections, the Sheriff's Office, the county's Public Safety Radio System, and the county's share of costs for Court Administration.

**Internal Services (\$15.2M)** includes the Office of Administration, the Board of Commission-



ers, Internal Audit, Information Technology, Accounting & Finance, and the General Operations of the county.

**Debt Service (\$12.5M)** accounts for principal and interest payments on bond issues.

**Property & Taxation (\$8.0M)** includes taxation, assessment, recording, land records, licensing, and election services.

**Library (\$6.4M)** includes the county library system as well as the Law Library.

## How We Compare

Washington County is part of the "Seven-County Metropolitan Area". The most recent data (2011), as provided by each county to the MN State Auditor's Office, places the county as the second-lowest of all seven counties in each of the following categories. We anticipate the same ranking for 2012.

### Washington County

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Levy per Capita                | \$364   |
| • Levy per Household             | \$988   |
| • Operating Budget* per Capita   | \$612   |
| • Total Budget per Capita        | \$913   |
| • Employees per 1,000 Population | 4.5     |
| • Tax Capacity Rate              | 29.772% |

\*Operating Budget excludes Debt and Capital