



MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

THE TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY

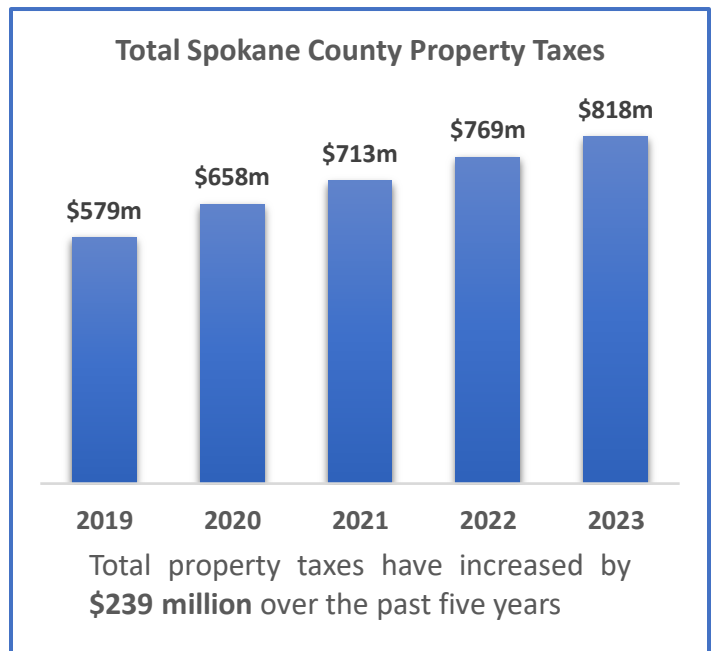


Dear Taxpayers,

Enclosed is your 2023 Spokane County property tax statement. The deadline for your first-half payment is April 30th and the second-half payment is due by October 31st.

As you might imagine, our office receives a great deal of questions and comments about property tax increases. While the Treasurer’s Office does not set your property tax rate or determine your home’s value, it is our job to serve you with fairness and accountability. Here are some ways we try to help taxpayers better understand their property tax bill:

- **Property Tax Breakdown:** Total 2023 property taxes in Spokane County are nearly \$818 million. The pie chart that accompanies your tax statement shows a proportional breakdown of what government services your property tax dollars pay for.



- **Property Tax Levy Changes:** Did you know that on average, about **40%** of your tax bill is self-imposed by voters through bond and levy ballot measures? On the reverse of this letter, we have included a table indicating some of the largest tax increases impacting 2023 property tax bills.

- **Taxpayer Town Hall:** Accessibility to your public officials is imperative. I am pleased to be hosting the next of my semi-annual “Taxpayer Town Halls” on **Wednesday March 22nd, at 6:00 P.M.** at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture Auditorium located at 2316 West 1st Avenue, Spokane 99201. Join me to learn more about the duties of the Treasurer’s Office and ask your questions!

- **Senior Citizen Coffee Hours:** I love meeting with our local senior citizens to answer questions and hear their ideas for better government. Those interested are warmly invited to join me at my courthouse office for one of our monthly “Senior Citizen Coffee Hours with the Treasurer.” I also know that high property tax increases can be a particular burden for those on fixed income. If you would like to attend, call us at (509) 477-4786 or email treasurer@spokanecounty.org.

On the reverse side of this letter, you will also find information about taxpayer assistance programs for those in need. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our office.

We work for you,

Michael Baumgartner
The Treasurer of Spokane County

Five Largest Property Tax Increases in 2023

Spokane Public Schools District #81:

School board majority adopted excess tax levies. Increases in values and new construction contributed to a total increase of \$10.6 million for 2023.

City of Spokane:

City Council majority approved annual 1% levy increase. City voters approved an EMS levy in April 2022. Increases in property value and new construction contribute to total increase of \$10.3 million for 2023.

State Public School Levies 1 & 2:

Previous State Legislature action created a statewide equalized levy for funding public education. Increases in property values and new construction resulted in an additional \$13.4 million to be levied in 2023.

Central Valley School District:

School Board majority approved excess tax levies. Increases in values and new construction lead to an additional \$2.6 million increase for 2023.

Spokane County Fire District #1:

Fire Commissioner majority approved general and special tax levies. District voters approved a levy measure in August 2022. Increases in values and new construction also contributed to an additional \$2.5 million to be collected in 2023.

**Note: Not all Spokane County taxpayers are impacted by each of these tax increases.*

For a full listing of tax levies, visit the County Assessor's website.

Mortgage Company Questions:

Many homeowners pay their property taxes through an escrow account managed by their mortgage company. By law, we are obligated to mail a tax statement to every homeowner. If you have questions about whether your property taxes are paid by a mortgage company, you should contact them directly.

Spokane Valley City Hall Property Tax Collection:

We know not everyone choosing to pay in-person finds the downtown Courthouse convenient. As such, we are pleased to offer in-person tax collection services once again at Spokane Valley City Hall.

- Spokane Valley City Hall: 10210 E. Sprague Ave. Spokane Valley 99206
 - Friday April 21st and Friday April 28th
 - 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

(Check or card payment only at Spokane Valley City Hall. Applicable credit and debit card fees apply.)

Senior & Disabled Person Exemptions:

Certain senior or disabled citizens may be eligible for reductions to their property taxes. Last year over 9,500 eligible taxpayers received a tax exemption. The exemption program is administered by the County Assessor's Office as authorized by state law. In some cases, the Treasurer's Office may be able to issue refunds for past taxes if a taxpayer is deemed eligible retroactively. Contact the Assessor's Office at (509) 477-3698 for more information.



Contact Us:

Phone: (509) 477-4713 **Email:** treasurer@spokanecounty.org **Web:** www.spokanecounty.org/treasurer