



Washington State
Association of Counties
The Voice of Washington Counties

2017 Legislative Session

Safe, Livable Washington

Increase Revenue for Public Safety & Criminal Justice Services

Counties are facing a financial crisis that is putting millions of Washingtonians' safety at risk.

The current method of financing county services is fundamentally broken. The few available revenue options are either inadequate, restricted, or unreliable. Counties need stable revenue streams to provide essential services such as public safety and criminal justice, to keep Washingtonians safe.

Public safety and criminal justice services are suffering the most; these services make up about 73% of counties' total General Fund expenditures.

118 Fewer
Officers

Counties have 5% fewer commissioned officers than five years ago

"The criminal justice system consumes 70 percent of county revenues, and the bad guys don't take a tax holiday. Besides the reduction in deputies, the Prosecutor's Office has 10 fewer attorneys handling more cases, many resolved by plea bargains that put criminals back on the streets faster."

- The Spokesman-Review Editorial Board

For example, counties across the state have experienced:

- Reductions in the number of deputies on the road
- Cuts to law enforcement training
- Delayed public safety response times
- Delayed criminal justice proceedings
- Caps on inmates booked into county jails
- Overcrowding in jails
- Elimination of security enhancements for jails & courthouses
- Increased diversion from road funds for law enforcement
- Dangerous road and bridge conditions

603

Structurally deficient or functionally obsolete county bridges (2015)



9

County jails are operating with an average daily population higher than the facility was designed for (2015)



\$37M

Diverted road fund dollars for law enforcement (2015)



The result is Washington State is less safe than it was a decade ago. Counties simply don't have the resources needed to fund the essential public safety and criminal justice services their communities rely on.

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Why Counties Matter

Counties are the Foundation of Our Communities

Counties in Washington State are arms or agencies of the state organized to carry out or perform certain functions of state government. Washington States' 39 counties deliver both regional and local services. Virtually all programs and services that counties deliver are required by the constitution, laws or rules of the state.

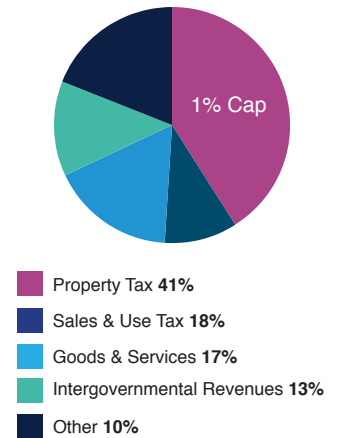
What County Government Does

State	Regional Government	Local Government
Prosecuting Attorney	Specialized Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement
Public Defender	District Court	Roads & Bridges
Superior Court	Domestic Violence	Land Use Planning
Juvenile Court	Medic 1 Ambulance	Zoning
Jail	E-911 & Central Dispatch	Building Permits
Juvenile Detention	Transit Programs	Parks & Recreation
Medical Examiner	County Airports	Garbage & Recycling
Mental Health	Public Health Services	Surface Water Management
Developmental Disabilities	Aging & Senior Services	Sewer Service
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse	Housing Programs	Water Service
Elections	Housing Repair Assistance	Weed Control
Treasurer	Energy & Weatherization	
Document Recording	Veterans Assistance	
Vital Statistics	Cooperative Extension	
Property Tax Admin.	Emergency Management	
Vehicle & Marriage Licenses	Search & Rescue	
	Sewer Service & Treatment	
	Growth Management Policies	
	River Basin Flood Plans	
	Solid Waste Management	
	Economic Development	
	Tourism & Facilities	
	Arts Commissions	
	County Fair	

Top 3 General Fund Expenditures

1. Law Enforcement
2. Detention & Corrections
3. Courts

General Fund Revenues



General Fund Expenditures

