



Clark County Treasurer's Office

quarterly update

First Quarter 2024 | From the desk of Alishia Topper

The Clark County Treasurer's Office is an independent financial arm of county government. It is my honor to share a few highlights from Q1 2024.

Treasurer Topper Out and About

Treasurer Alishia Topper recently showcased her expertise at the Ripple event, where she presented on *Demystifying Washington State Property Taxes*. She broke down complex tax concepts, empowering attendees to navigate their tax obligations with confidence.



Amanda Reynolds, Treasurer Topper, Jill Blair

Office Spotlight

We're thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievement of three team members who have reached their five-year milestone with our office. I want to extend my heartfelt recognition to Hannah, Sabina, and Krysta for their enduring commitment and invaluable contributions to the community. Over the last several years, our office has experienced several retirements and conducted numerous recruitments. Today, we are fully staffed, retaining team members, and ready to serve!



The Importance of Identifying Counterfeit Monies

In the Clark County Treasurer's Office, recognizing counterfeit money is of paramount importance to safeguard the integrity of financial transactions. As a primary custodian of public funds, our office plays a crucial role in ensuring only genuine currency enters circulation within the county. Detecting counterfeit currency not only protects the county's financial assets but also contributes to maintaining the stability of the local economy. Here are a few key identifiers of counterfeit funds:

1. Paper quality: Genuine currency is printed on specific paper blends that include cotton and linen fibers, giving it a distinct feel. Counterfeit bills may feel unnaturally smooth or lack the texture of genuine currency.
2. Watermarks and security threads: Many currencies feature watermarks or security threads embedded within the paper. These features are often difficult to replicate accurately in counterfeit bills.
3. Color and printing quality: Genuine currency utilizes sophisticated printing techniques, resulting in vibrant colors and fine details. Counterfeit bills may appear faded, blurry, or lack the crispness of authentic currency.
4. Microprinting: Tiny text or patterns are often incorporated into genuine currency as a security measure. Counterfeit bills may lack these intricate details or have them printed inaccurately.
5. Ultraviolet features: Some currencies include ultraviolet (UV) features visible under UV light. These features can be challenging for counterfeiters to accurately replicate.

Legislative Changes

The Washington State Legislature passed SHB 1474 during the 2023 legislative session, increasing the document recording fee by \$100 for most documents. The fee was \$203.50, and as of January 1, the fee increased to **\$303.50**. This is for every county across the state and the fee increase does not apply to:

- assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust.
- documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death.
- marriage licenses issued by a county in Washington State.
- documents recording a federal, state, county, city, water-sewer district, wage lien, or satisfaction of lien.
- any recorded documents otherwise exempted under state law.

The increased funds will be used to create the covenant homeownership account and program to address the history of housing discrimination due to racially restrictive real estate covenants in Washington State.

Clean Audits Build Trust!

In Q4, the Washington State Auditor conducted a performance and accountability audit focused on cash receipting, timeliness of deposits and disbursements and investment activity compliance. The auditors had no findings or recommendations for our team – we passed with flying colors. We were also commended for our continued compliance with office policies and internal controls, even in the most challenging of times, specifically during the cybersecurity event when we processed payments manually. Clean audits are one piece needed to solidify our mission of being the, “locally trusted source for collecting and protecting public funds.”

Quick Stats

Each year the Clark County Assessor certifies the tax roll for all governments that levy property taxes. This year the certified tax roll is \$934,968,331.88 and our 2024 countywide assessed value is \$105,166,548,847. Once Assessor Peter Van Nortwick passes the tax roll to Treasurer Topper, we bill, collect, and distribute funds. Property tax statements have mailed, and first half taxes are due April 30.



Assessor Van Nortwick, Treasurer Topper

Do you want to know more? Contact me at: alishia.topper@clark.wa.gov | 564.397.4452