



Clark County Treasurer's Office

quarterly update

Second 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 Q2 2024.*

Supporting Our Community!

In May, the Assessor and Treasurer Offices collaborated with the FISH Food Pantry of Vancouver, dedicating their efforts to support those in need. Our teams sorted through donated food items and supplies, ensuring they were ready for distribution to the community. This rewarding experience not only strengthened our commitment to community service, but also highlighted the importance of collective efforts in addressing local hunger. Through our involvement, we gained a profound appreciation for the vital role that organizations like FISH play in supporting vulnerable populations.



From left to right: Michael, Carmen, Neil and Nels

State Associations of Treasurers & Assessors Joint Conference

We are thrilled to report the overwhelming success of the 2024 WSACA & WSACT Conference. The enthusiasm and engagement from attendees were truly inspiring, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and innovation. The insightful presentations, robust discussions, and interactive workshops provided valuable knowledge and sparked new ideas that will undoubtedly enhance our ability to serve our communities, laying a strong foundation for future collaboration and growth. The feedback has been positive, highlighting the quality of the sessions and the relevance of the topics discussed. A special thank you to Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Larry Smith, Pat Jollota, Representatives Orcutt, Wylie, Harris and Stonier, and State Treasurer Mike Pelicciotti for speaking and showcasing Vancouver's history and future.



Treasurer Topper, Rebecca Calder Retired Naval Officer

Local Tax Increment Financing (LTIF)

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1189, empowering municipalities to establish local tax increment financing (LTIF) districts. These LTIF districts serve as a potent economic development tool, allowing taxing districts to divert property tax revenue from designated properties within their jurisdiction to fund critical infrastructure projects that stimulate development.

Following the bill's passage, three local municipalities swiftly moved to create LTIF districts. The Port of Vancouver led the way by establishing the first LTIF, aimed at funding significant improvements to the Vancouver waterfront. The City of Ridgefield followed, with a focus on enhancing transportation infrastructure through its approved LTIF district. Most recently, the Port of Ridgefield is seeking approval for an LTIF district dedicated to revitalizing their historic downtown waterfront and the I-5 corridor.

As these LTIF districts take shape, the offices of the treasurer and assessor have been diligently collaborating with our tax system vendor to implement the necessary software changes. This collaboration ensures the successful disbursement of LTIF tax collections to these districts, paving the way for the envisioned infrastructure improvements and subsequent economic growth.

Inspiring Future Leaders

Treasurer Alishia Topper, alongside Auditor Greg Kimsey, presented on local government to a group of high school students as part of the Leadership Clark County (LCC) program. The duo provided an engaging overview of the roles and responsibilities of local government officials, offering students a closer look at how their community is governed. Through their informative session, Topper and Kimsey aimed to inspire the next generation of civic leaders, encouraging the students to become informed and active participants in their local government.

First Half Tax Season Update

The Treasurer's Office and Joint Lobby partners successfully navigated another tax season with impressive results in the first half of 2024. As of May, we collected 53.9% of the \$935 million billed.

Payment methods included: \$93.4 million received electronically, \$157.6 million via mail processor Retail Lockbox, and \$229.2 million from mortgage companies. Remaining payments were handled at the Public Service Center. The team also managed approximately 4,200 phone calls. Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with high satisfaction ratings:

- Response time: 96.7%
- Friendliness of staff: 96.6%
- Ease of doing business: 100%
- Knowledge and competence of service representatives: 100%
- Overall satisfaction: 100%

The success of this tax season is attributed to the professionalism, retention of trained staff, and technology enhancements implemented over the past few years, marking it as the smoothest experience in recent memory.

Registered Warrant Process

RCW 36.29.010(1)(d) authorizes the County Treasurer to issue registered warrants when there are insufficient funds to cover payments made by the taxing districts. Moreover, [RCW 39.59.040\(3\)](#) allows treasurers to invest in registered warrants. Clark County Investment Policy limits the Clark County Investment Pool's registered warrant holdings to a maximum percentage of 10% of the portfolio and 5% per issuer.

We recently finalized our updated internal procedures for issuing registered warrants. If your district is experiencing cash flow issues, please reach out to us. We are requesting at least 60 days advance notice to work through the process.

Habitat for Humanity

Treasurer Alishia Topper recently had the honor of serving as co- MC for an Evergreen Habitat for Humanity event, celebrating the organization's efforts to provide affordable housing to families in need. Her heartfelt and enthusiastic hosting helped highlight the impact of Habitat for Humanity's work in the community. Treasurer Topper continues to be committed to supporting affordable housing initiatives and will continue to encourage others to contribute to the cause. We thank and recognized the dedication of volunteers and donors who make Habitat for Humanity's mission possible.

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