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By the Numbers - Quick Benton County Facts 2025:

Population We Serve: 221,722

County Seat: Prosser, WA

Land Area: 1,700.4 sq. miles

Unemployment Rate: 4.4%

Building Permits: 840

New Construction: 797,726,360

*Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau Benton County, Washington

*RMLS, www.eds.wa.gov/labormarketinfo

Services Provided By the Treasurer's Office

Property Tax Collection

Collection of Other County Funds and Districts

Foreclosure and Distraint

Investment and Disbursement of Funds

Real Estate & Mobile Homes Excise

REPORT TO OUR CITIZENS

Fiscal Year 2025

Jan 1st, 2025 - Dec 31st, 2025

Who We Are & What We Do?

Kenneth Spencer Jr. is the Treasurer for Benton County, Washington. The Treasurer is a constitutional office elected by the people for a four-year term. The Benton County Treasurer's office is responsible for receiving funds and cash management, including collecting taxes, fees and other revenue. The Treasurer also manages the collection and distribution for various county departments and districts such as schools, water and fire districts as well as other local government entities. This is accomplished by adhering to a set of core values which provide a framework and guiding principles for actions, decisions and overall behavior within the department.

Core Values



Integrity

Earn our community's trust through responsible actions and transparent communication.



Innovation

Implementing creative ideas to enhance existing operations and maximize productivity.



Teamwork

Collaborative team effort to serve our community in a effective and efficient way.



Reliability, Accuracy and Accountability

Maintaining up to date with relevant Treasury operations knowledge.

Fiscal Transparency & Reports

The Citizens report presents community demographics, performance on key missions, cost and revenue data, and future objectives. Benton County's official site provides access to budget documents, meeting agendas, and audit reports, allowing residents to track spending priorities and policy changes.

Upcoming Year Goals

- 1 The Treasurer's office manages investments of the reserve cash for both the County and districts we serve. The processes related to calculating and dispersing interest is cumbersome. We will review our needs and meet with vendors offering comprehensive Investment and Cash Flow Management software. The updated software options will help our office improve cash forecasting to make more informed investments decisions based upon cash flow needs.
- 2 We have received feedback from taxpayers that they would like a payment cart option for electronic payments on our website. This would allow them to make payments on multiple parcels in one payment. We will meet with vendors offering payment processing services that ensures a secure and easy-to-navigate platform to accommodate this request.
- 3 Our Accounting team works closely with the County and State Auditor's offices to prepare the County's financial statements. Recently there was an update on how district fund activity is reflected in the annual reporting. To accomplish this, our office will meet with the State Auditor's office to understand requirements and review changes implemented by counties across the state to ensure our practices meet compliance.

What We Accomplished

Our Production	2024	2025
Tax Statements	86,992	87,710
Property Transfers	6,239	6,516
General Receipts	3,826	4,213
Investments	16	18
Overpayments/ Refunds	1,211	1,157

Payments Processed	2024	2025
Mortgage Accounts	70,161	71,133
Checks	56,851	56,481
Electronic Payments	16,989	18,572
ACH Payments	4,394	4,338
Overpayments/ Refunds	1,211	1,157

Foreclosure

We focused on meeting with taxpayers in delinquency to determine their needs. We referred exemption/deferral eligible taxpayers to the Assessor and conducted site visits, focusing on taxpayers with limited mobility. Our Foreclosure Specialist also worked with the WA State Homeownership Resource Center to connect property owners in jeopardy of foreclosure with available resources for housing, counseling and legal aid.

Investment Strategies

In an effort to improve our financial standing, our Finance Team met with districts and other departments to ensure that we understand their long term cash needs. In this uncertain time, a comprehensive cash flow enhances our financial stability and ensures we continue meeting short and long term obligations. This has also helped us make more precise investment decisions and expanded opportunities for investment earnings.

Services

Our office continues to look for ways to improve services for our taxpayers and districts we serve. Through our review, we found a need to reduce time related to processing tax payment files from mortgage companies. We implemented a vender that works with both us and the mortgage companies to ensure error-free payments. This has significantly reduced refunds, manual tasks, and prevented taxpayers from having to correct improper payments.

Where Did Your Tax Money Go?

Property assessed values and levy rates, both certified by the Assessor's office, are certified annually and used to calculate the property taxes for each taxable real and personal property parcel. The Treasurer then issues statements informing taxpayers the amount to be collected for the year. Property taxes are collected by the Treasurer's Office and distributed to their respective county/district funds. Below, you will find the distribution of property taxes for 2024 and 2025.

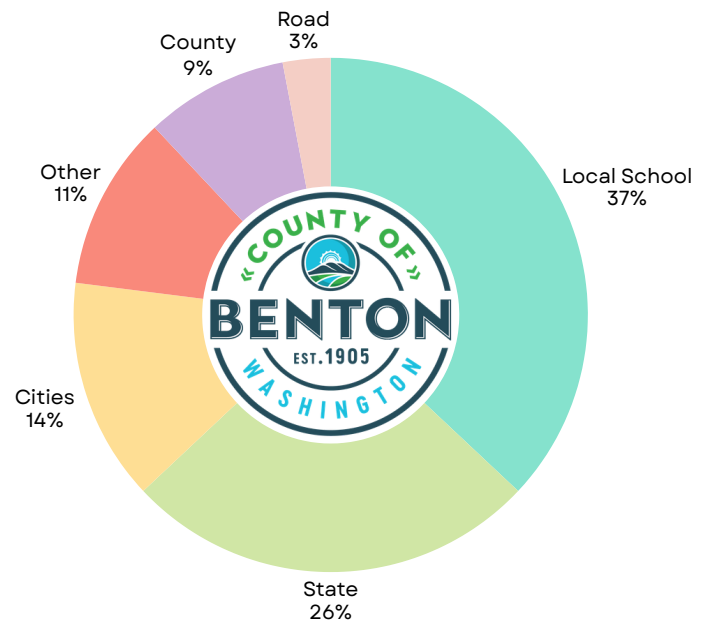
Tax Distribution	2024	2025	% change
Local Schools*	\$75,346,715	\$82,016,269	8.8%
State Schools*	\$115,585,627	\$121,147,975	4.8%
Cities	\$43,180,479	\$44,723,106	3.6%
County	\$27,904,908	\$28,529,511	2.2%
Fire	\$16,706,284	\$18,141,848	8.6%
Ports	\$7,960,987	\$8,382,930	5.3%
Road	\$7,708,184	\$7,708,184	2%
Library	\$4,385,828	\$4,841,582	10.3%
Special Assessments	\$3,402,188	\$3,580,363	5.2%
Hospital	\$2,676,429	\$2,758,145	3.1%
Total	\$304,857,629	\$321,983,180	5.6%

* State School is a levy all property taxpayers pay for public schools and Local School is tax levy approved by voters for a specified school district.

Independent Audit: The Treasurer's office does not issue separate financial statements, however, the Treasurer's office contributes a major portion of the revenues and statements included in the [Benton County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\)](#). Complete financial information can be found at the County's website: www.co.benton.wa.us.

How Your Tax Dollars are Distributed

Tax monies are collected on an annual basis. These funds are vital to functions within the County and used to provide public services for the taxpayers. The pie chart (below) displays the percentage of total property taxes distributed to each fund.



Fiscal Year	2024	2025
Parcel Count	92,349	93,523
Full Time Employees	15	14
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,181,040	\$1,217,162
Supplies & Services	\$114,304	\$118,026
Interfund	\$295,704	\$309,488
Total	\$1,591,049	\$1,644,676

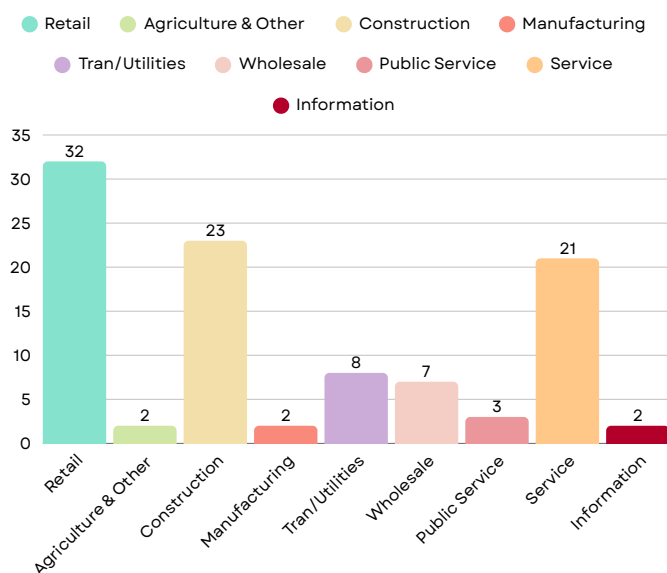
The Benton County Treasurer Citizen Centric Report provides a brief summary of the Benton County Treasurer's 2025 performance. For more information Visit our website at: www.Bentoncountytax.com



Sales Tax Distrubution

The Treasurer's Office monitors and analyzes local retail sales & use tax trends. Our office receives data from the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis. Analyzing data helps our office be more accurate when forecasting future revenue.

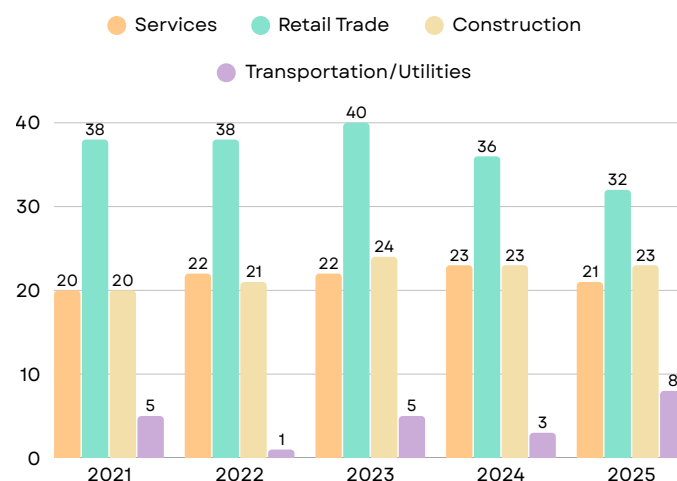
The chart below displays the breakdown of the collected sales and use tax for the 2025 tax year. The total collected for 2025 was \$19,214,744., an increase from 2024.*



*Total tax reflects current expense receipted into the general fund, less refueling tax received. (Refueling tax is only received on odd number years.)

Top Four Categories For Local Sales Taxes:

The tax generated from **Retail Trade** fluctuates considerably, rising from 35.9% in 2021 to a peak of 40% in 2023, before dropping to 32% in 2025. In contrast **Construction** shows a steady increase, and every new building adds value to our community. This added value translates into a higher property tax base and increased sales tax revenues, which contribute to vital **Services** including, schools, road work, emergency services and public safety. 2025 also saw an increase in **Transportation/Utilities** tax which supports infrastructure such as road maintenance, transit routes, water-sewer upgrades and broadband expansion.



FUTURE CHALLENGES 2026

The Federal Reserve is stopping the production of pennies all together. The shortage of pennies is one of the challenges that our office is going to face. Front office staff will guide residents toward electronic or rounded payment options, extending service interactions and requiring clear communication. Back office accountants will rely on detailed reporting and new rounding reconciliation procedures to stay compliant and keep cash handling efficient. At the state level, Gov. Bob Ferguson passed a new state law (HB 2334) allowing entities to round cash transactions up/down to the nearest five cents as pennies become less available.

We Value your Feed Back

Did you find this report informative? Would you like to see other information included in this report? Please let us know by contacting the Benton County Treasurer at:

Treasurer@co.benton.wa.us



Contact Us

Prosser Office

620 Market St PO Box 630
Prosser, WA 99350
P: 509-786-2255

Kennewick Office

7122 W Okanogan PI Suite E110
Kennewick, WA 99336
P: 509-735-8505

www.bentoncountytax.com