

# Shoreline's Quality of Life ~ Your Investment of Property Taxes

When reviewing property tax bills it's helpful to understand where property tax money goes. The community's investment in Shoreline has made our community one of the best places to live in the region.

In 2005 and 2008 Seattle magazine placed Shoreline at the top of its list for Best Neighborhoods in the region. Shoreline made the grade again this year in Seattle Met magazine. This honor is the result of Shoreline's high rankings for its extensive park system with great amenities; respected school district; active neighborhoods; excellent police and fire services and low crime rates; good commute times to both Seattle and the eastside; and housing affordability and options.

But there is more to this list of excellent amenities than most people realize. The Shoreline community's investment over the years through property taxes is one of the primary ways it has helped maintain and improve Shoreline's quality of life. And it's not just window dressing for outsiders to admire; in the City's 2008 citizen survey, 93% of residents who responded confirmed that Shoreline is a great place to live.

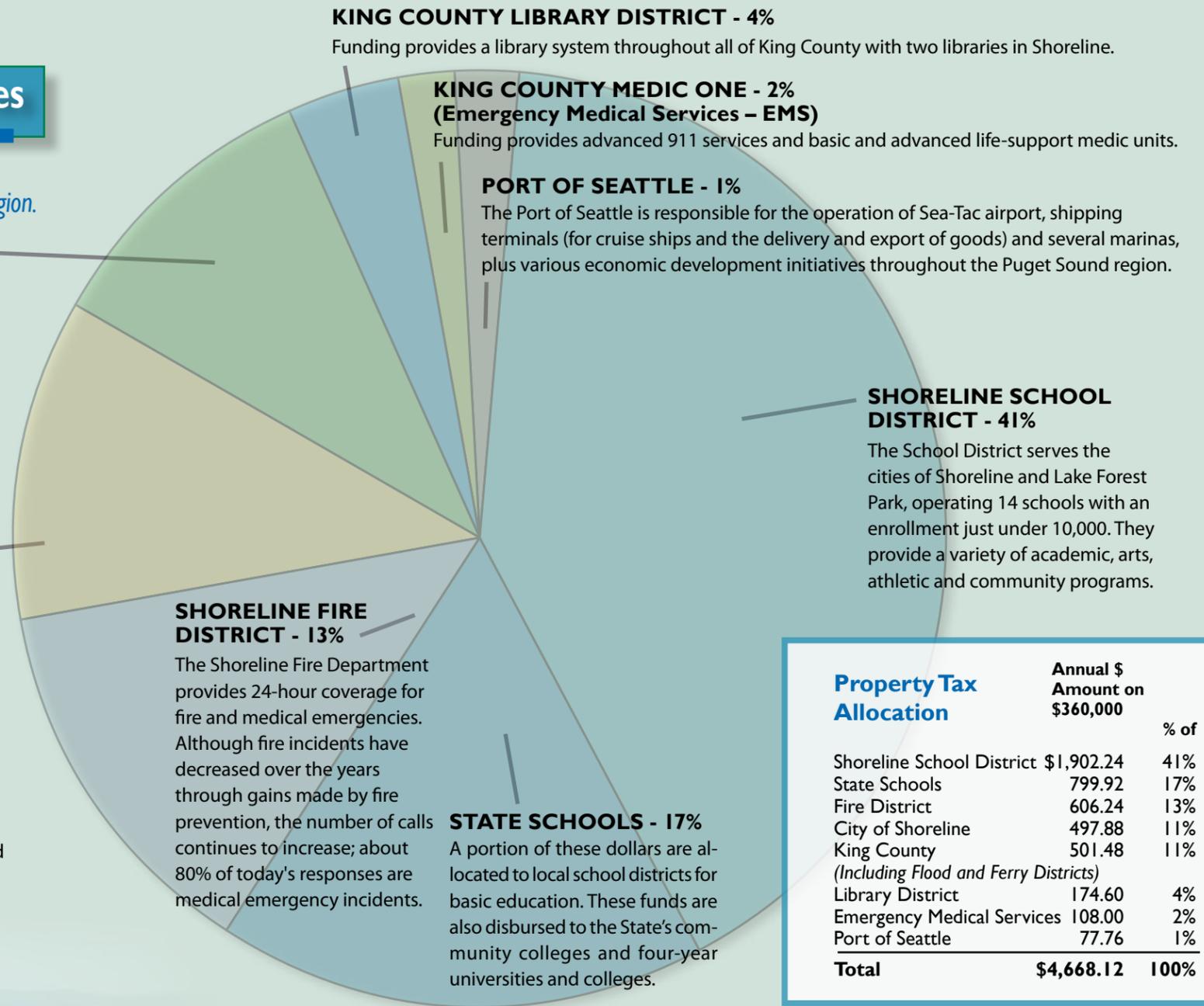
The graph to the right shows where your property taxes go. Many of these agencies have helped Shoreline become a desirable place to live. Listed here are just a few of the services you get for your investment.

## KING COUNTY - 11% (Including the Flood and Ferry Districts)

Services provided by the County include property valuation, tax assessment and collections; prosecution and incarceration of felons; public health (such as birth and death certificates, medical examiner, public health clinics-immunizations, food handlers permits, restaurant inspections); environmental programs; social services (veteran and senior programs, job training and family court); and County-owned parks, open space and recreation.

## CITY OF SHORELINE - 11%

The City receives 11% of property tax dollars. Just under 20% repays the bonds issued when voters approved the 2006 Park Bond to acquire open space (i.e., South Woods, Kruckeberg Botanic Garden), improve and construct trails, and to improve park and recreational facilities (Cromwell, Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, tennis court upgrades, etc.). The other 80% (9% of the total property tax bill) is used to provide critical public services such as police; park and athletic field maintenance; recreational programs; neighborhood support; street lights, traffic signals, and traffic control equipment maintenance; jail services; social service funding; and emergency management, just to name a few.



Property Tax Allocation	Annual \$ Amount on \$360,000	% of
Shoreline School District	\$1,902.24	41%
State Schools	799.92	17%
Fire District	606.24	13%
City of Shoreline	497.88	11%
King County (Including Flood and Ferry Districts)	501.48	11%
Library District	174.60	4%
Emergency Medical Services	108.00	2%
Port of Seattle	77.76	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,668.12</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Questions?** If you have questions regarding your property valuations, visit the Department of Assessments website at [www.kingcounty.gov/assessor.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/assessor.aspx) or call (206) 296-7300. For more information about Shoreline property taxes visit [shorelinewa.gov](http://shorelinewa.gov) or call Shoreline Finance Director Debbie Tarry at (206) 801-2301.

## Low-Income Tax and Utility Assistance Programs

The economy has been a concern for many people, but this may be especially true for those on fixed or low incomes. A variety of programs offer tax and utility help to Shoreline seniors, low-income individuals and families, and people with disabilities. Contact these numbers or visit the City's website for program details and eligibility.

### TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Property Taxes: King County (206) 296-3920
- Garbage and Natural Gas Utility Tax Exemption: City of Shoreline (206) 801-2700

### UTILITY ASSISTANCE AND REDUCED RATE PROGRAMS

- Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities (water)
  - ~ Seniors and persons with disabilities: City of Seattle Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens (206) 684-0268
  - ~ Low-Income: Seattle Human Services Department (206) 684-0268
- Hopelink (206) 440-7300
- Ronald Wastewater (206) 546-2494
- Shoreline Water District (206) 362-8100