

An overview of Washington's cities and towns

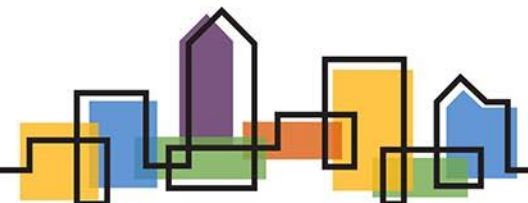
Carl Schroeder, Government Relations Advocate
Association of Washington Cities
November 17, 2017





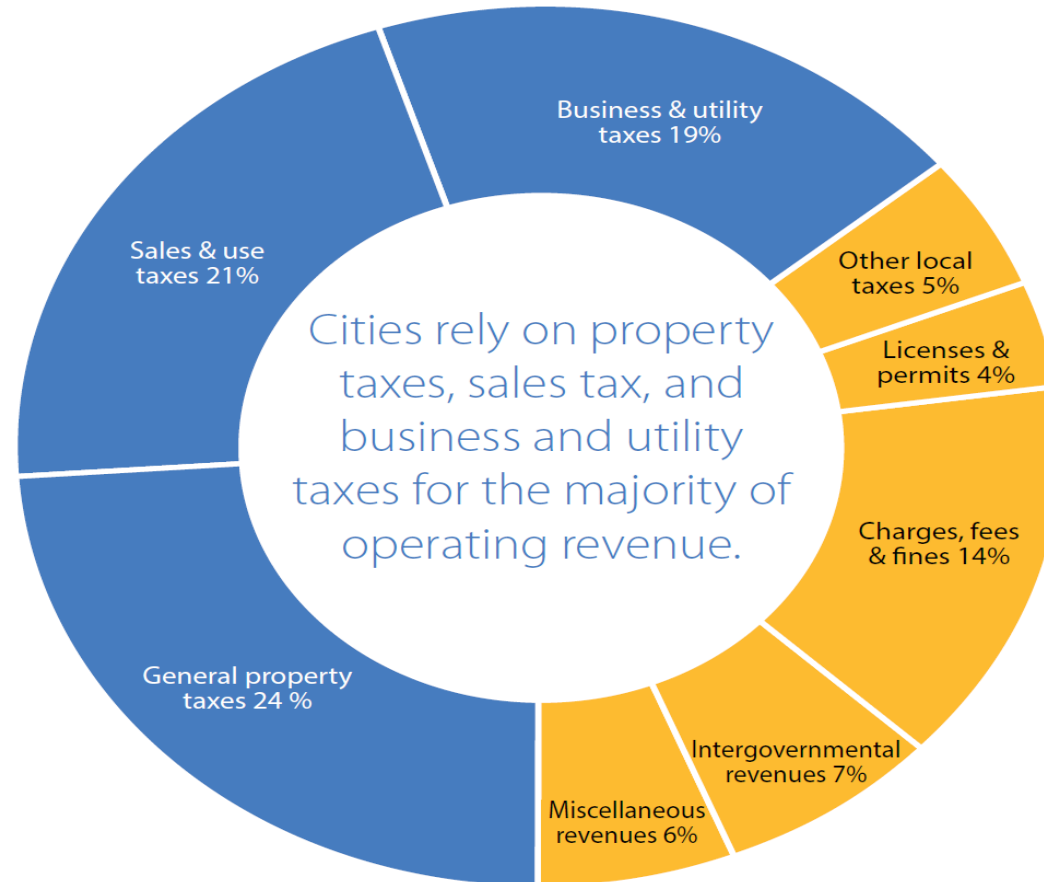
What we'll cover

- Where city revenues come from and where they go
- How mandates and growth exacerbate our challenges
- Discussion of how the challenge facing your committee is not quite as simple as evaluating the relative constitutional and statutory responsibilities of cities and counties and revenue authorities to address them. There are a number of “discretionary” activities we all want to see continue.

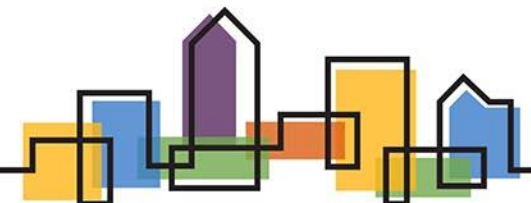




City operating revenue



Source: State Auditor's Office; general fund, special revenues.

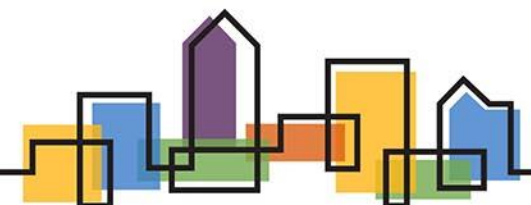




Public Safety - provided by city employees



Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

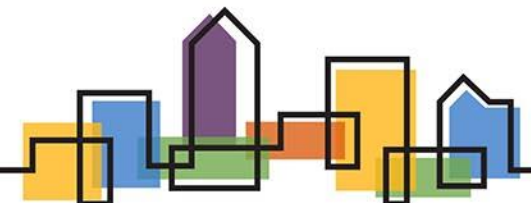




Public Safety- ½ city operating budget

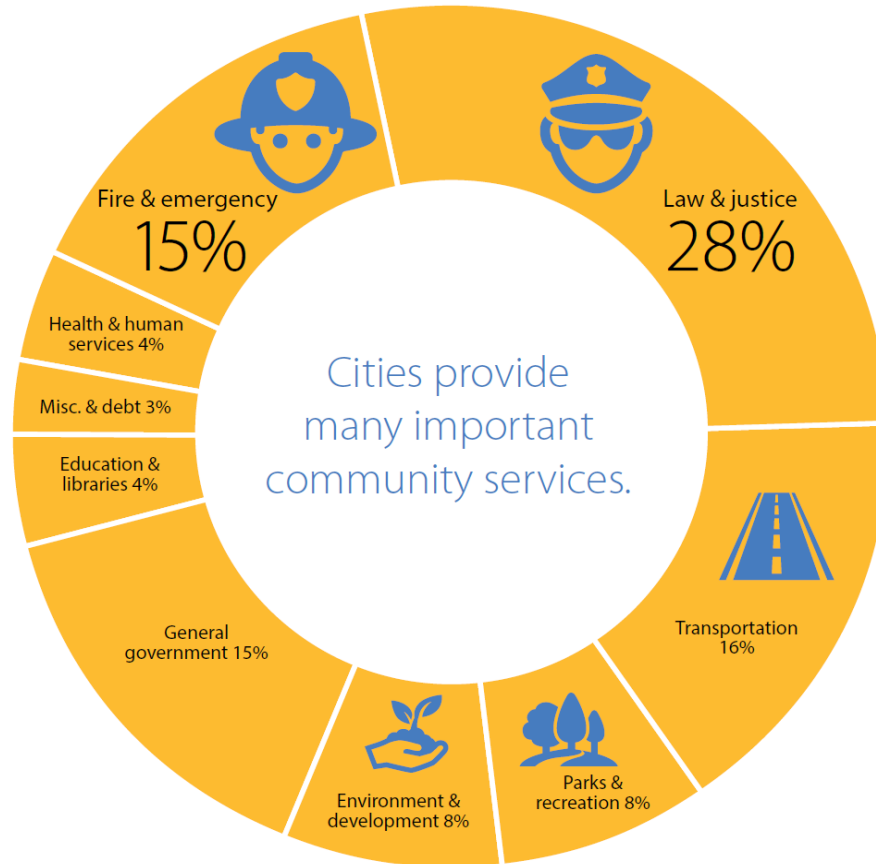


Source: State Auditor's Office

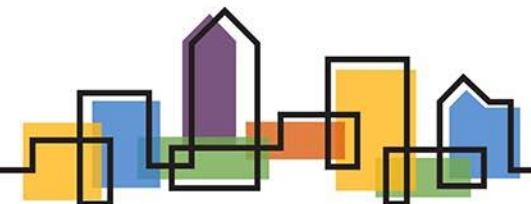




How city funds are used



Source: State Auditor's Office; general fund, special revenues.



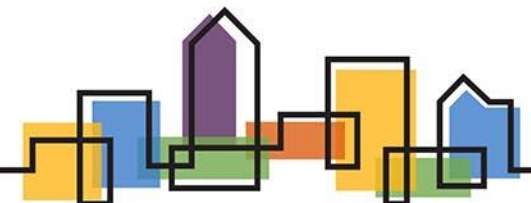


Mandatory or Discretionary?

Program	City	County
Administrative Support	D	D
Adult Detention Felons		M
Adult Detention Pretrial & Misdemeanor	M	M
Air Pollution	M	M
Airport	D	D
Animal Control	D	D
Arts	D	D
Assessor		M
Attorney (City/County Cases)	M	M
Auditor		M
Boundary Review Boards		M (D in small counties)
Budget	M	M
Building/Fire Code	M	M
Capital Facility Planning	M	M
Cemetery	D	
Community Development	D	D
Cooperative Extension		D
County Fair		D

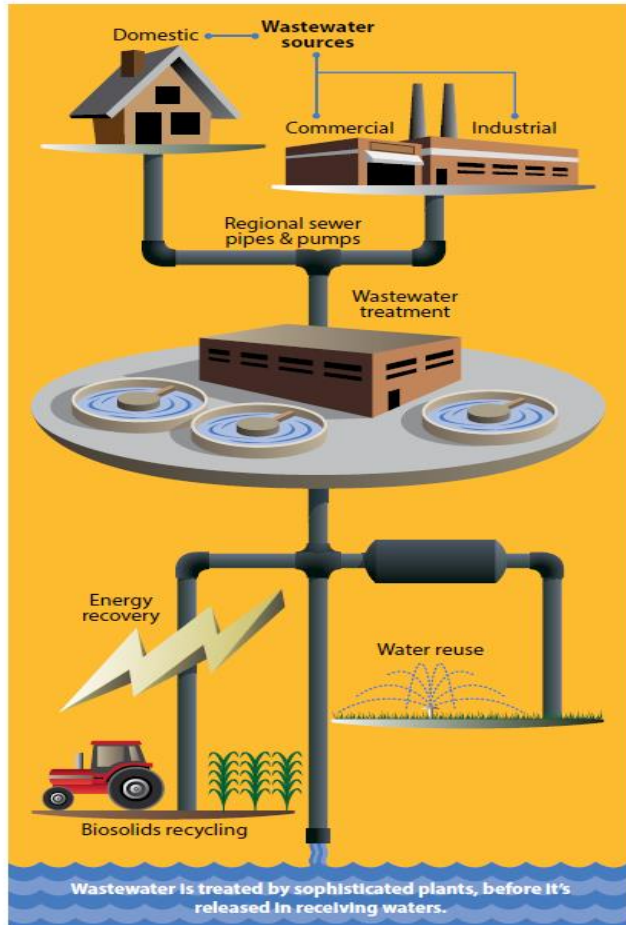
Program	City	County
Courts	M	M
Developmental Disabilities		M
Elections		M
Electric Energy	D	
Emergency Medical Services	D	D
Employment and Training	D	D
Executive	M	M
Finance/Treasurer	M	M
Fire Suppression	D	
Historic Preservation	D	D
Hospital	D	D
Involuntary Treatment		M
Juvenile Detention and Courts		M
Land Use Controls (GMA)	M	M
Legislative Council	M	M
Library	D	D
Licensing	D	M
Medical Examiner		M

Program	City	County
Mental Health		M
Parks and Recreation	D	D
Planning (GMA)	M	M
Public Defense	M	M
Public Health		M
Public Safety (Crimes)	M	M
Public Transportation	D	D
Roads	M	M
Sewage Collection/Treatment	D	D
Solid Waste Collection	D	
Solid Waste Disposal	D	D
Surface Water	M	M
Traffic Enforcement	M	M
Veteran's Programs	D	M
Water Supply	D	D
Worker's Compensation	M	M
Youth Services	D	D



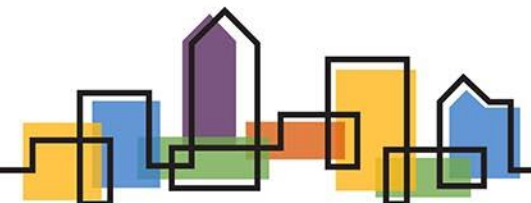


It's not quite that simple, however. As just one example, consider wastewater



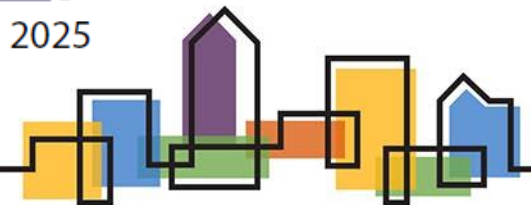
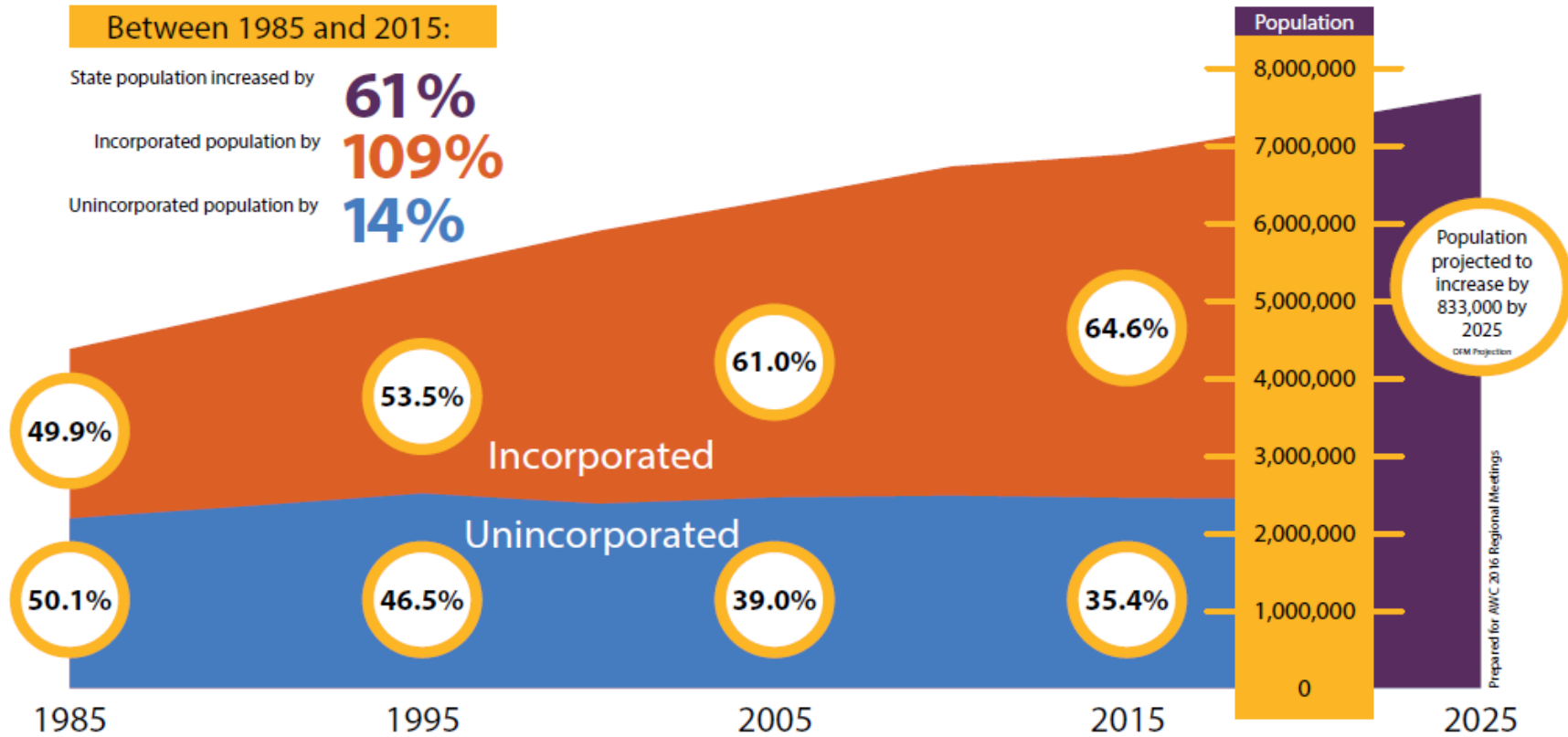
Sewer Collection and Treatment is considered Discretionary. But it is necessary for development at any urban density. Costs associated with providing for collection and treatment of wastewater are driven by a whole host of things. Some cost drivers are mandates, some aren't.

- What type of plant?
- Are capacity issues because of domestic or business needs?
- Is there a regulatory driver?
- How old is your existing system, upgrading or replacing?
- How many customers are you serving, how much of your growth is the facility to accommodate?





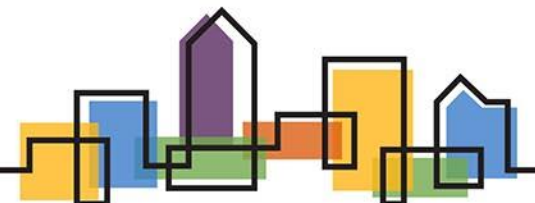
Growth pressures on cities are only increasing





Closing thoughts

- There are a number of “discretionary” activities that we all want to continue, any study should account for this.
- Didn’t get into the revenue side of the equation, but the trend in recent years has been an erosion of funding for many of these items, structural revenue limitations like the 1% cap, and new revenue opportunities being highly focused.
- How will these trends interact with each other as the state looks to accommodate more population growth in the next decade than the equivalent of another Vancouver, Battleground, Bellevue, Yakima, Spokane Valley, Kirkland, Burien, Edmonds, Longview, SeaTac, Camas, Kelso, Poulsbo, Shelton, and Washougal.





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