

# YOUR ROLE IN SEATTLE'S BUDGET

## HOW YOU FUND LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT:

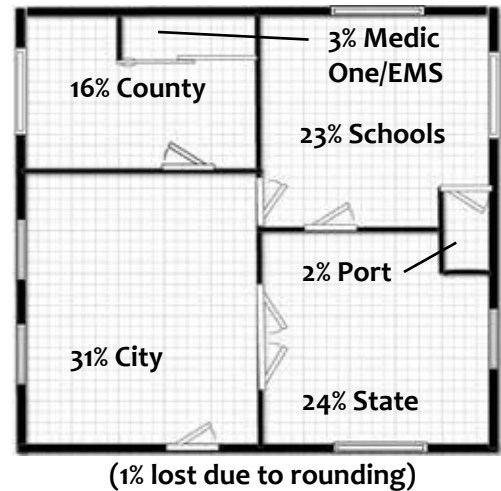
### 1. Retail sales tax (9.5%)

Every dollar of sales tax is distributed to nine entities:



### 2. Property tax

Taxes from the rate of \$10.51 per \$1,000 assessed value are divided as shown below:



### 3. Business and Occupation (B&O) taxes

The State and City receive a percentage of gross revenue from businesses.

### 4. Utility bills



### 5. Other payments

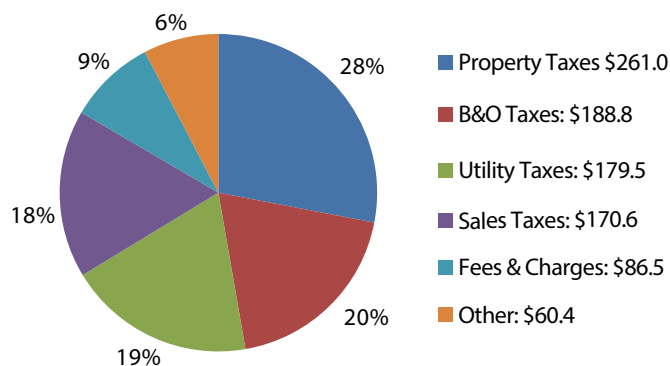
Admissions tax, commercial parking tax and permit fees, among others.

## HOW THE CITY USES YOUR MONEY:

Most of the City's general tax revenues and discretionary resources are pooled into a central \$949 million **general fund**. The areas of human services and transportation receive significant resources outside the general fund from State and Federal sources and voter-approved property tax levies.

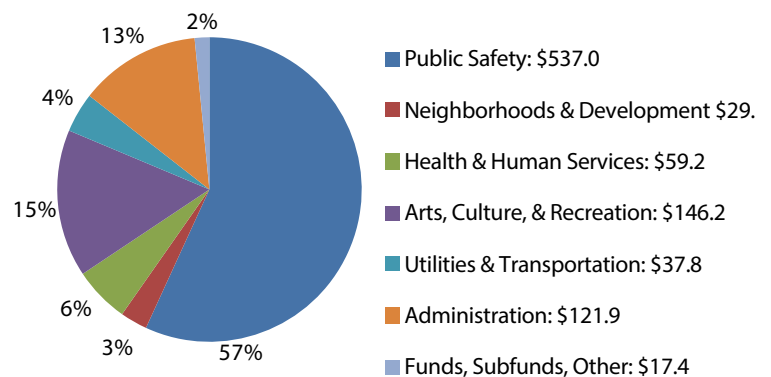
#### General Fund Revenue by Source

(in millions of dollars)



#### General Fund Expenditures by Area

(in millions of dollars)



#### A note about public utilities

Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities account for about half of the City's total \$4.1 billion budget. Since their revenue comes from customer fees, they are generally considered separately from the rest of the City budget.



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
2015 Budget Review

# SEATTLE'S BUDGET PROCESS

## SEATTLE'S BUDGET TIMELINE

Be a savvy budget advocate and know when to speak to a department, the Mayor or the Council.

### FEBRUARY - MARCH

Budget Office and Departments start baseline budget setting

### APRIL - MAY

Budget Office and Finance & Administrative Services (FAS) develop forecasts and initial budget guidance

### MAY

Departments develop and submit initial budget proposals to the Budget Office and Mayor

Council engages in budget conversations with the community

### JUNE

Budget Office and Mayor review Department suggestions, provide feedback

### JUNE - JULY

Departments finalize and submit budget requests to Budget Office and Mayor

### JULY - SEPTEMBER

FAS revises revenue forecast; Budget Office and Mayor review and balance budget proposal; proposed budget finalized and transmitted

### SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Council reviews proposed budget, holds public hearings, makes changes to the budget and adopts the final budget and capital improvement plan

Designing a City budget is a mighty undertaking, one that requires a great deal of effort, a lot of time, a careful ordering of priorities and considerable input from citizens. **Thank you for joining us in this process.**

**The City's budget process is built around three key components:**

1. The **revenue forecast** for the upcoming year determines how much funding is available.
2. The City's **operating budget** allocates funding for all City departments, including the utilities. In 2012, it totaled \$4.1 billion.
3. A **Capital Improvement Program** forecasts spending on capital projects over the next six years.

**Visit [www.seattle.gov/council/budget](http://www.seattle.gov/council/budget) for more information and opportunities to be involved or attend one of our two public hearings.**

**Questions?** Contact Councilmember Nick Licata, Budget Committee Chair, at 206-684-8803 or [nick.licata@seattle.gov](mailto:nick.licata@seattle.gov).

*Reasonable accommodations are available upon request, as are translated materials.*



**Seattle City Council**