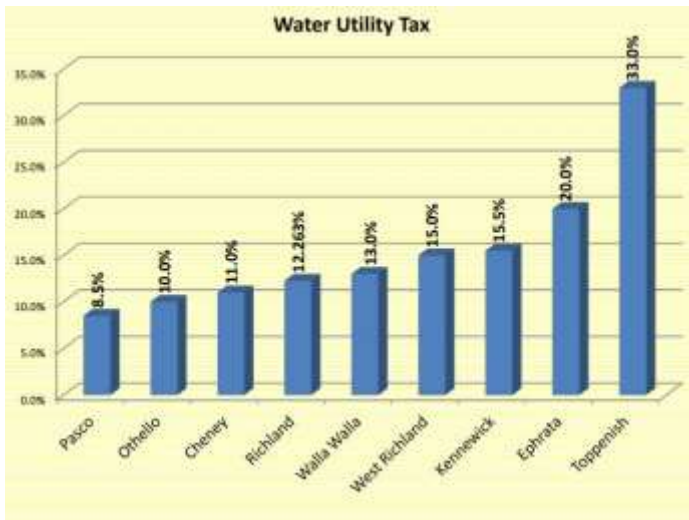




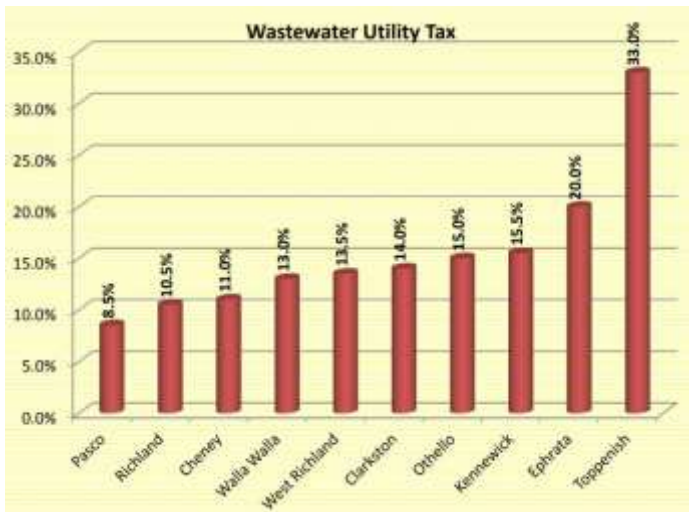
Utility Tax Increase Proposal FAQ

The College Place City Council is considering the addition of water & wastewater utility tax to 10% and increasing solid waste and cable to the same amount in order to close a \$125,000 reoccurring deficit, hire two additional Police Officers, one Fire Training Officer, and one Community Development Technician. The reoccurring deficit is after reoccurring budget cuts of over \$350,000 made by City Administration. Fifteen years ago the City staff was at 52 full time equivalents. Now the staff is at 35. Positions proposed used to exist at the city a decade ago but were eliminated due to reductions in state shared revenue. Initiative 695 which removed car tabs has removed a total of over a million dollars from city coffers. Immediate goals of the city is to provide prompt service to our residents, strive to have two Police Officers on shift at a time (right now it's at one), and provide ample training for our volunteer firefighters.

Water Utility Tax Rates



Wastewater Utility Tax Rates



Rationale for (2) Police Officer Positions

The College Place Police Department (CPPD) has been operating at insufficient staffing levels in comparison to other agencies of comparable size and population. Consequences for understaffing include reduced customer service, delayed response and reactive, versus proactive enforcement which reduces the safety and security of our community. Additionally, officer safety is compromised by understaffing which has resulted in officers leaving for other departments.

A recent audit by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) states, "it is clear that CPPD has insufficient staffing to provide one officer street coverage on a 24/7 basis. This conclusion does not begin to broach the topics of officer safety and 24/7 supervision that is customary and accepted by most Washington police agencies" (CPPD LEMAP, P. 15)

Rationale for (1) Fire Safety Officer Position

With any volunteer fire department we have continual turn over. The average of volunteer service is 4 ½ years. This means that a ¼ of our department is new recruits annually. Which creates a huge training need. The additional revenue will allow the fire department to finally hire a much needed training officer that has not been staffed since the 2008 recession. The training officer will coordinate and instruct, the consistent training of our 40 volunteer members and the three other paid support staff, respond to calls for service, and help with the supervision of our live at the station volunteers. This is a support role that will make sure that we are meeting the needs of our community and keeping us in compliance with State and Federal laws.

Rationale for (1) Community Development Assistant

The goal is to improve customer service by providing continuous services during normal business hours. This will allow staff to respond and answer initial development and permitting inquiries during business hours without the need for customers to wait for a return call. This position will alleviate the management team of four different departments from many of the various routine daily operations of the Building, Community Development, Engineering and Public Works Departments. They will act as the liaison between the Community Development Department and Contractors doing business with the City. They will track, maintain and post project status/dates/deadlines for permitting and development projects, enabling the Building Department to provide consistent and timely permit processing.

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Keep up to date with the Fiscal Year 2018 Budgeting Process! Visit: http://www.cpwa.us/departments/finance/budget_2018.php