



## Excellent Results for West Richland Voted Bonds!



The City of West Richland issued voter approved general obligation bonds to acquire land, construct and equip a larger police facility and provide for safety and technology improvements. The City's better than anticipated AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings and the low interest rate market will save West Richland taxpayers through a lower than anticipated levy rate. The City had

anticipated a bond levy rate of 42¢ per \$1,000 assessed valuation in 2020, however with the City's bond rating upgrade, growth in the city's assessed value, and low interest rate environment, the 2020 bond levy rate was reduced to an anticipated 30¢ per \$1,000.

Mayor Brent Gerry said "we are very pleased to have achieved a lower bond levy rate for the benefit of our taxpayers. Our prudent financial management practices, strong ending fund balances, small amount of outstanding debt for the City, and strength in the Tri-Cities economy, helped propel us to a AA+ bond rating and reduced our interest rate on these bonds for a new voter approved police facility."

"We are very excited with the results of the bond financing process and the reduction in the anticipated cost to the taxpayers" said West Richland's Police Chief Ben Majetich. "The West Richland Police Department is very appreciative of the community support we have received to fund a larger, secure police facility which is extremely important to improving policing services and helps us meet accreditation standards. We will continue to update our residents about the progress being made on the facility construction through our web site, Facebook page, newsletter, and the news media."

**Applications to amend the Comprehensive Plan for the 2020 cycle are due January 31, 2020.** The City's Comprehensive Plan is a key guide and plan for future development in the City. Amendments to the Plan are considered annually Visit the City's website <http://www.westrichland.org/comprehensiveplan> for more information, or contact Emily Weimer, Senior Planner, at [eweimer@westrichland.org](mailto:eweimer@westrichland.org) or (509) 967-5902.

### Meetings

- Jan. 7 City Council meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8 West Richland Chamber meeting  
Sandberg Event Center - Noon
- Jan. 9 Planning Commission meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 21 City Council meeting  
3100 Belmont Blvd - 6:00 p.m.

### Christmas Tree Disposal

Ed's Disposal will pick up your Christmas tree free of charge. Just put it next to your garbage can on your regular garbage day.

### City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on January 20th in observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Together, we can ensure  
that our community receives the  
resources it needs.

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## Census 101: What you need to know

The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here's a quick refresher of what the Census is and why it is essential that everyone is counted. You can complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. It's easy, safe, and important. By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. For more information, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

**Everyone Counts** - The census counts every person living in the U.S. once.

**It's about Fair Representation** - Every 10 years, the

results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

**Your privacy is protected** - It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

**It's in the constitution** - The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

**It's about \$675 billion** - The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.

**It's about redistricting** - After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

**Taking part is your civic duty** - Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

**2020 will be easier than ever** - In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.

**Census data are being used all around you** - Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

***Employees needed - Join the 2020 Census Team! Apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)***

## Boards and Commissions Vacancies

The City of West Richland has vacancies on several West Richland boards and commissions, including Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board, Board of Adjustment and Salary Commission.

More information and applications are available at:

[www.westrichland.org/  
board-and-commission-vacancies/](https://www.westrichland.org/board-and-commission-vacancies/)

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## Sidewalk Snow and Ice

West Richland Municipal Code 12. 20.020, "Sidewalk snow and ice removal," states, *It shall be the duty of all property owners or persons having charge or control of any premises bordered by city right-of-way to clean, maintain, and repair public sidewalks, driveways, or planting strips constructed thereon in a reasonable and safe condition.*

Residents are responsible for maintaining sidewalks and driveways adjacent to their property. When residents fail to clear sidewalks, the result can be a treacherous ice patch. Please do your part in protecting pedestrians from possible injury.