



City Budget Breakdown: Funding for Parks and Streets

After a season of budget work sessions and public hearings, the West Richland City Council passed the City's first two-year budget in November. This is the third straight budget City leaders balanced through cuts including, reducing the employee medical premium contribution, eliminating the 2% step for non-represented employees, and eliminating capital equipment for parks and streets.

The City's Budget is composed of 21 separate funds that are balanced independently - revenues equal expenditures. The Budget is divided into three primary sections - General Government, Capital Projects, and Utilities. Overall, most of the revenue collected by West Richland is restricted by law for a specific use, e.g., utilities.

General government funds account for services to the public including public safety, street maintenance, parks, community and economic development, and administrative functions. Taxes, fees, charges, and contributions from other governments are the primary finance sources for general government. The City's main funding sources for general services include property, utility, sales, and fuel taxes, as well as state shared revenues. Most of these funding sources have challenges as illustrated in the following table. The funding source for street capital is also included in the table.

Service	Main Funding Source(s)	Challenge
Street Maint. & Operation	Fuel Tax	Fuel tax has been declining or remained flat since 2007.
Street Capital - Overlay	Real Estate Excise Tax Revenue (REET)	Real estate excise tax revenue is highly volatile. This revenue is dependent on the sale of real estate activity.
Parks	Property Tax, Sales Tax, Utility Tax, and State Shared Revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property tax is restricted to a 1% increase each year, however expenses typically increase 3 - 4% each year • Sales tax revenue growth has been dampened by the City's proximity to neighboring retail centers, such as Queensgate in Richland. West Richland's sales tax per capita lags behind most cities in Benton and Franklin Counties. • In 2011, the state began diverting revenues shared with cities to the state general fund. The cuts may continue with a potential for liquor excise taxes to be permanently diverted to the state.

Meetings

Feb. 5	City Council meeting Library - 7:00 PM
Feb. 6	West Richland Chamber meeting Sandberg Event Center - Noon
Feb. 11	Economic Development Board mtg Library - 5:30 PM
Feb. 14	Planning Commission meeting Library - 7:00 PM
Feb. 19	City Council meeting Library - 7:00 PM
Feb. 25	Park Board meeting Library - 6:30 PM

A meeting and events calendar is available on the city website on the home page under Quick Links. Agendas are also posted on the web pages for City Council and Boards and Commissions. On the top menu of the home page click on Government, then Council or Boards and Commissions.

City Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents Day.

City Budget Breakdown (continued)

A challenging economic environment combined with longer-term structural imbalances has made balancing the City's general fund and street budgets very difficult without dramatically reducing service levels. The West Richland City Council will begin exploring funding to help the capital, maintenance and operational needs of the City's parks and streets. The Mayor and City Council encourage resident participation and feedback as funding sources for parks and streets are explored this year.

New City Office Hours

Effective February 1, 2013, City office hours are as follows:

City Administration/Utilities:	8:30 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Public Works/Community Development:	8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Police Department:	8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Scholarship Opportunity

The City of West Richland is now accepting applications for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities Scholarship. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and/or city government and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2013.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school, home school or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2013; live in the City of West Richland; plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2013-2014 academic year on a half-time or more basis; and been involved with a city government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at westrichland.org or cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than March 1, 2013. Submit completed materials to:

City of West Richland, Attn: Julie Richardson, 3801 W. Van Giesen, West Richland, WA

The Center for Quality Communities promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement. The Center's goal is to develop a broad public understanding of the important role cities and towns play in Washington. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Did You Know...

City surveys have shown that a priority of West Richland citizens is to have a clean and safe city.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain easements, alleyways, and other areas attached to properties.

Weeds, rubbish, all manner of debris, or unsightly nuisances in easements, alleyways, or other areas attached to properties will be monitored and enforced.

Parenting with Dignity Classes

The West Richland Police Department is pleased to offer the Drew Bledsoe "Parenting with Dignity" classes. All parents, prospective parents, and grandparents are invited to attend this FREE eight week seminar that focuses on parenting.

The seminars will be held on Thursday evening beginning on February 7, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The classes will be held at Tapteal Elementary School. Free childcare will be provided by The Champions Program for children 5 to 12 years of age only; however, space is limited so early registration is advised. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, contact Terry Buechler at 967-3539