

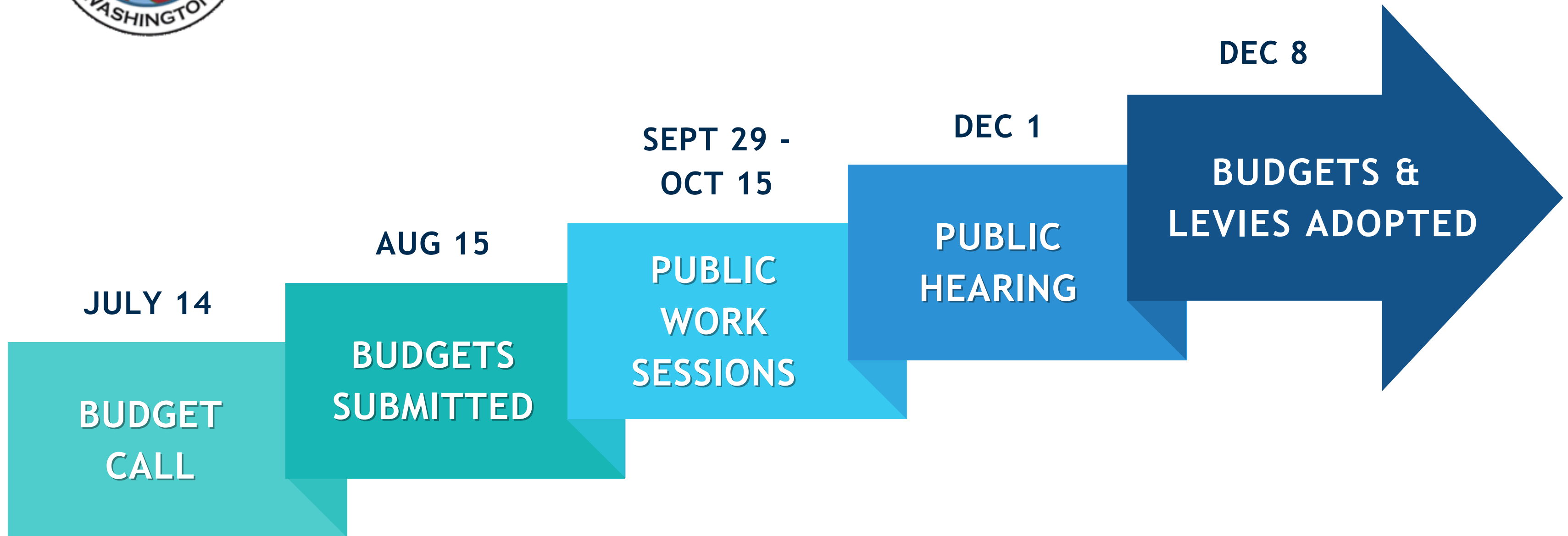


Skagit County 2026 *PRELIMINARY* BUDGET

Trisha Logue
County Administrator
November 17, 2025



2026 BUDGET TIMELINE



*Preliminary budget released Nov 17th.
Written public comment period through Dec 1st.*

2026 COMMISSIONER BUDGET OBJECTIVES



Long-Term
Financial Stability



Healthy Reserves



Sustainability



Strategic Plan
Investments



Full Cost
Reimbursement



CURRENT PICTURE

01 General Fund Deficit

If 2025 services and staffing are maintained in 2026, there would be a \$19M deficit in the General Fund.

02 Increased Expenses

2026 expenses in the preliminary budget, including salaries and benefits, operations, and goods and services, increased by 1.7% over the 2025 year end estimate.

03 Flat Revenues

Property tax revenue increased by 1% (plus new construction) in 2025, sales and use taxes increased by 4.2% over 2024.

04 Reduced Grant Support

Federal and state support has been reduced, particularly with the loss of ARPA, but there has additionally been increased mandated services without monetary support.



2026 REDUCTIONS

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM TRANSITION

County Commissioners have requested Northwest Regional Council find a new provider for the senior meals program by July 1, 2026.

WORKFORCE REDUCTION

The County has proposed 28 position reductions in addition to eliminating 23 positions within the Public Health Department for transitioning the meal program starting July 1, 2026.

HIRING FREEZE & FURLOUGH DAYS

Temporary 90-day hiring freeze has been extended indefinitely to stabilize budgets, and there will be 10 county closure days in 2026.



GENERAL FUND SERVICES

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC
HEALTH

PARKS

COUNTY
JAIL

COURTS

AUDITOR

ASSESSOR

TREASURER

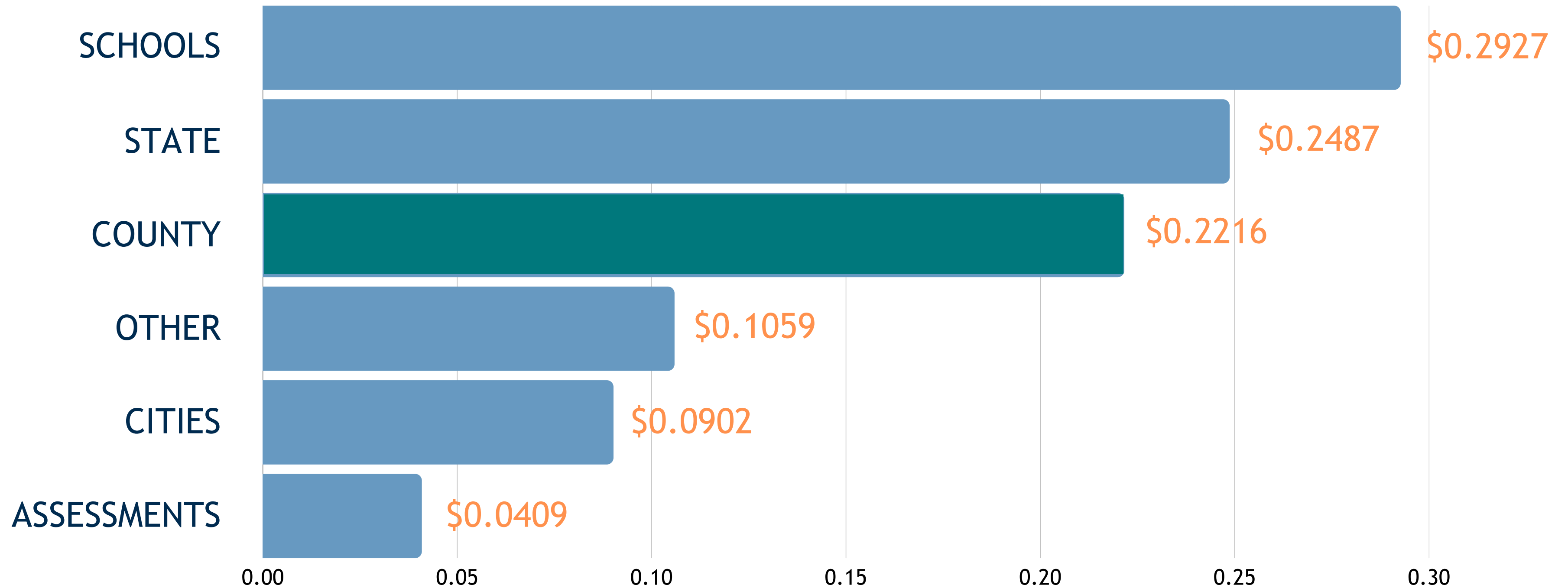
CORONER

*61% of General Fund expenses pay for services
provided to all Skagit County residents.*



WHERE DO OUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

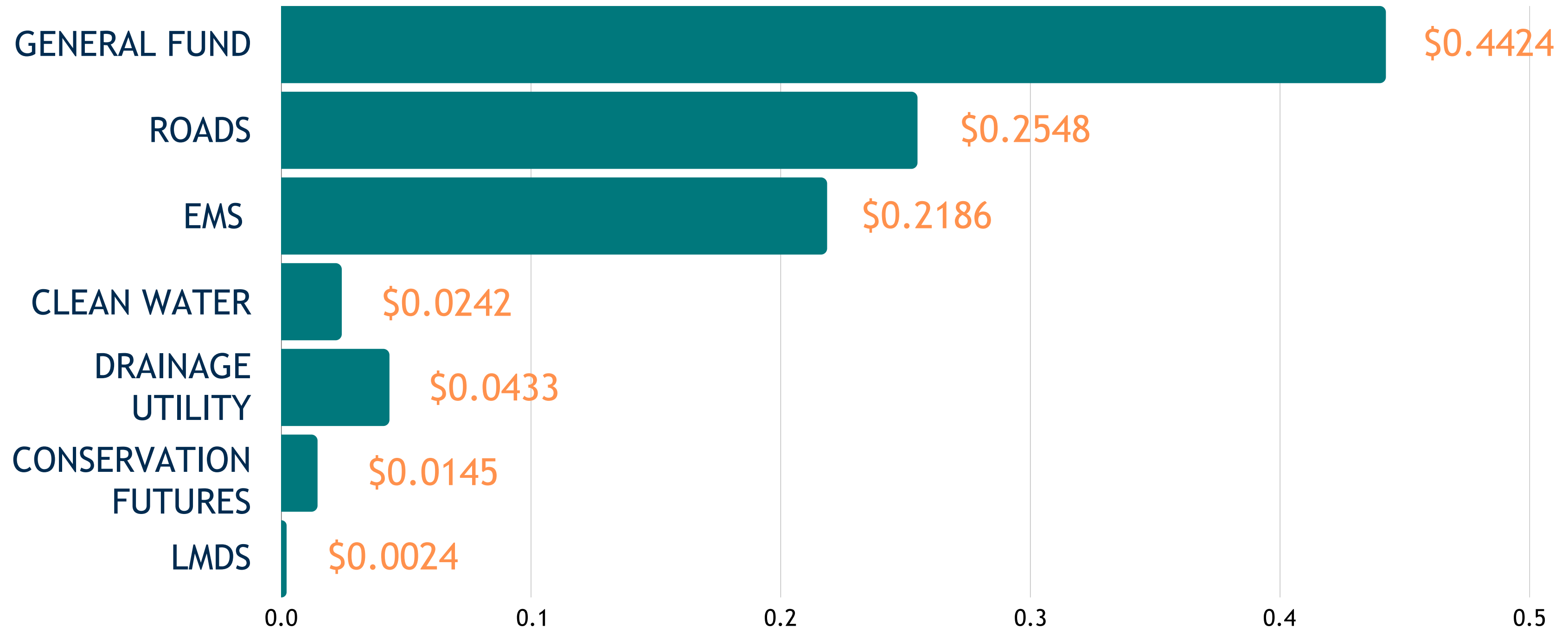
FOR EVERY \$1





WHERE DO OUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

WITHIN THE COUNTY, FOR EVERY \$1





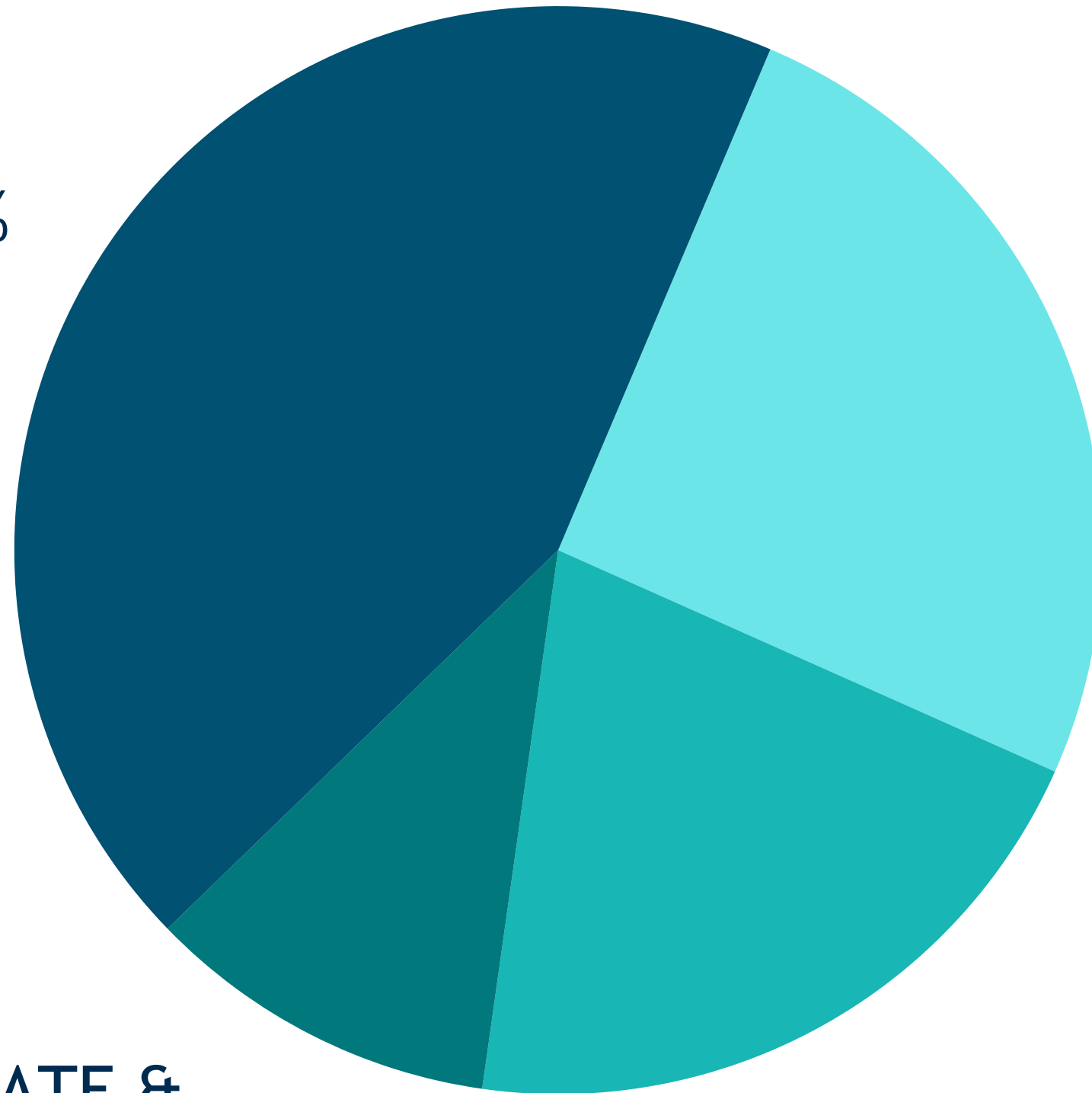
SOURCES OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE

PROPERTY
TAXES 43.6%

SALES & USE
TAXES 25.3%

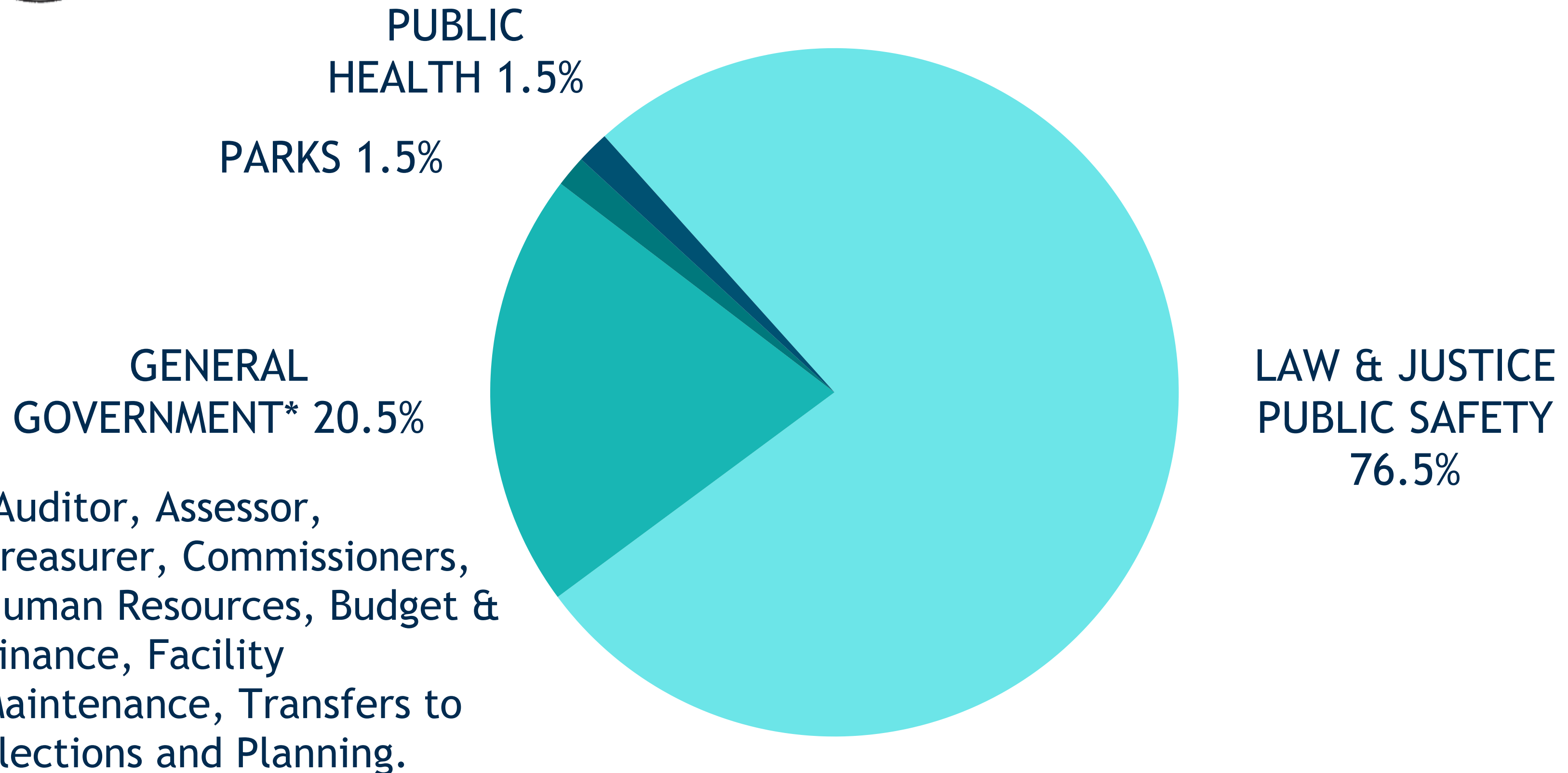
STATE &
FEDERAL 10.5%

OTHER 20.56%





USES OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE





GENERAL FUND BUDGET

EXPENSES **\$73.5M**

REVENUE **\$88.2M**

2025 Modified
Budget

8.2%  increase in
expenses over 2024
modified budget.

\$73.4M

\$83.2M

2025 End of Year
Projections

5.7%  decrease
in expenses over 2025
adopted budget.

\$73.6M

\$84.6M

2026 Preliminary +
Supplemental

1.7%  increase
in expenses over 2025
modified budget.

2025 modified budget included \$14.8M of reserve spending.



TYPES OF COUNTY FUNDS

49 TOTAL!

General Fund (1).

- Everything not accounted for in a different fund.

Special Revenue Funds (35).

- Restricted for a specific purpose other than debt or capital.
- Examples - Public Health, County Roads, EMS, Elections, etc.

Debt Service Fund (1).

- Principal and interest payments on debt.

Capital Funds (5).

- Acquisition or construction of capital facilities or other assets.

Enterprise Funds (3).

- Activities for which a fee is charged to external users

Internal Service Funds (4).

- Provide service within our government, or to other governments, on a cost reimbursement basis.
- Examples - Equipment Rental, Information Services, Insurance, etc.



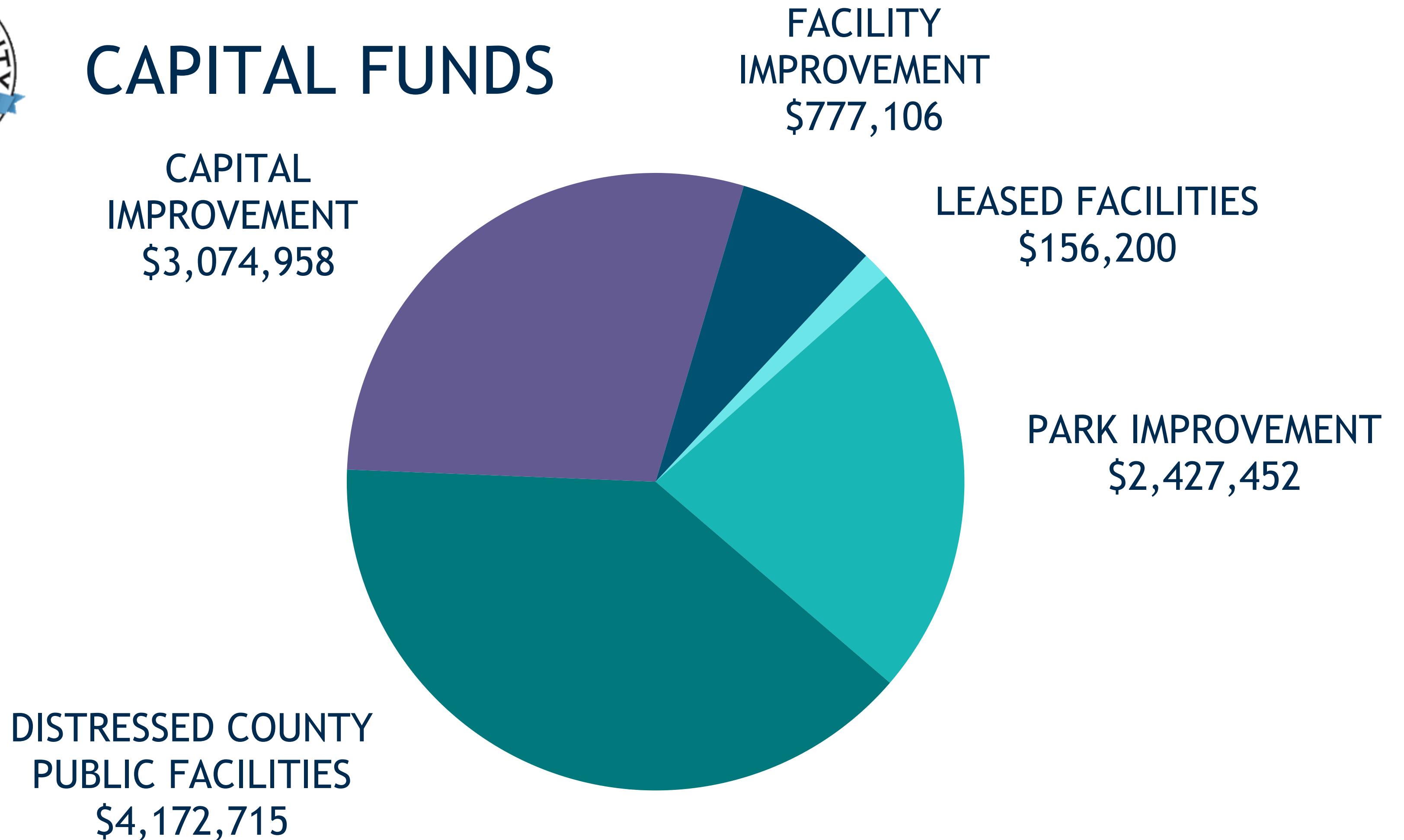
DEBT SERVICE FUND

Outstanding debt obligations on the following projects:

- Continental Building
- Ventilation and Cooling for Downtown Admin Building
- Morgue and Facilities
- Public Facilities District - McIntyre Hall
(over 40% of expenditures at \$832,400)
- Water Quality Loans (Septic Systems)



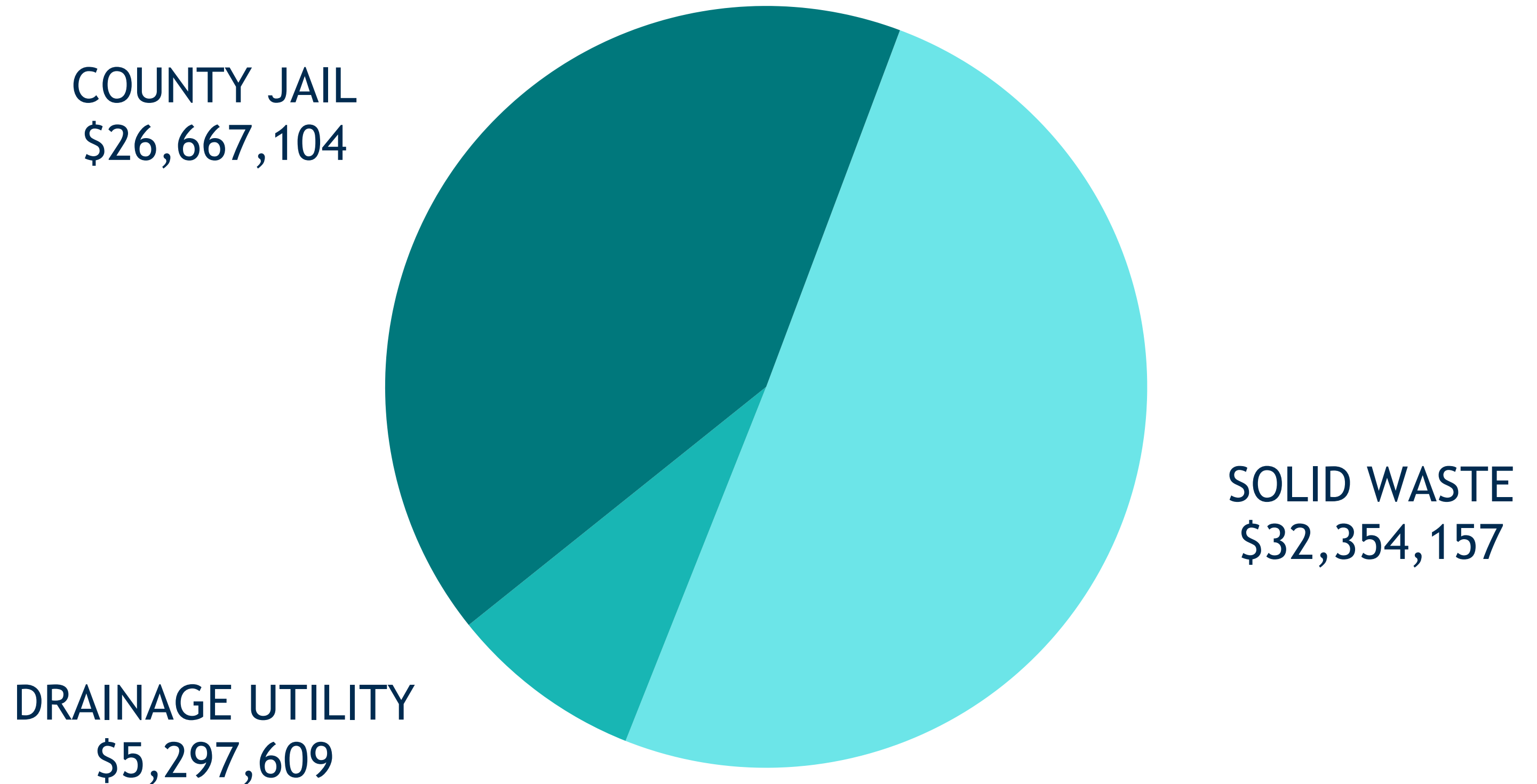
CAPITAL FUNDS





ENTERPRISE FUNDS

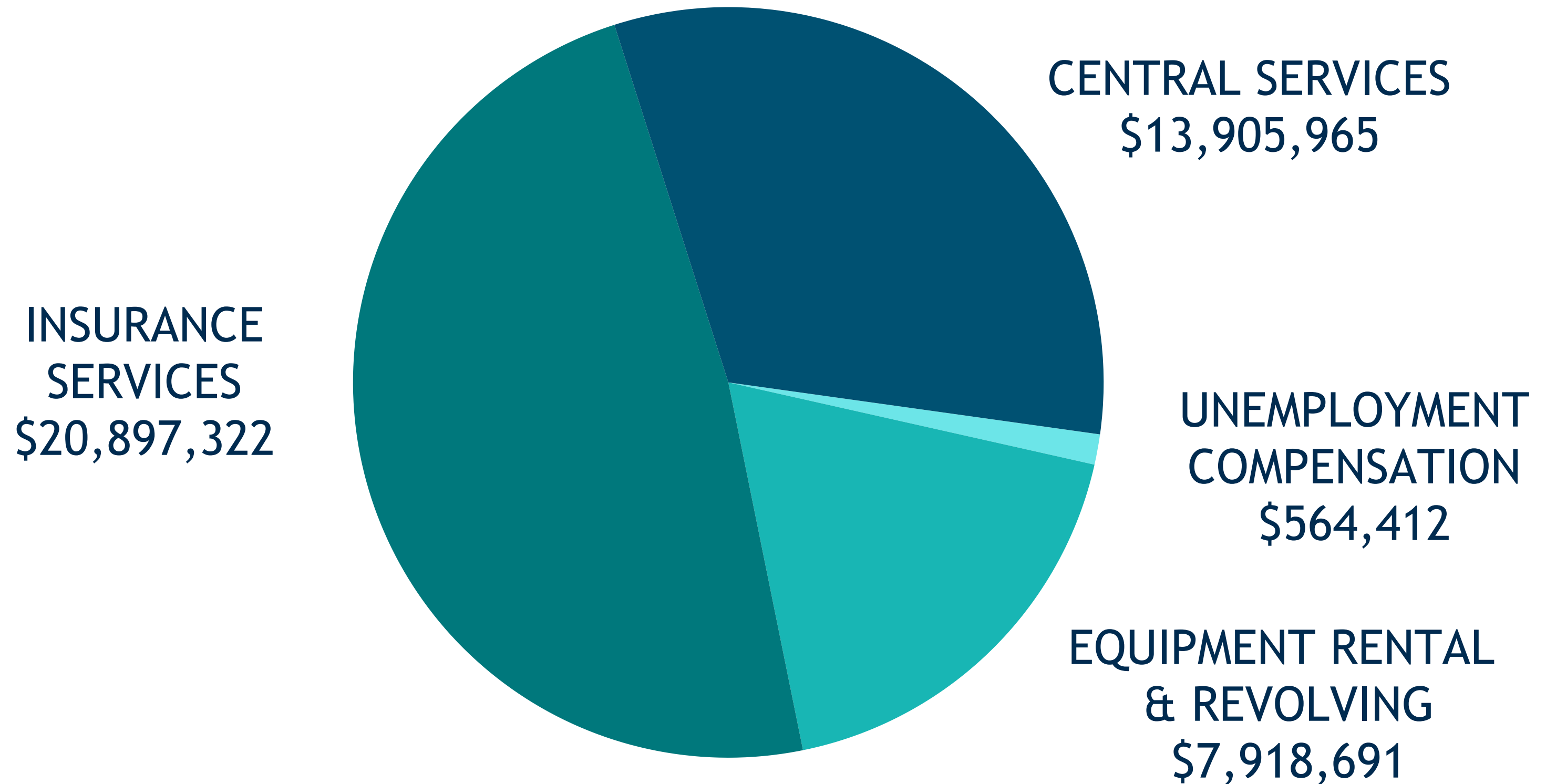
BUSINESS-LIKE ACTIVITIES





INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

SERVICES PROVIDED WITHIN THE COUNTY





KFA 1 INVESTMENTS

*STRONG & ENGAGED
WORKFORCE*

COMPETITIVE PAY & EQUITABLE HIRING

Continued evaluation of competitive pay and benefits, and adoption of job descriptions which provide alternatives for minimum requirements to include formal education, experience, certifications and/or licensing.

RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

Development of a recruitment program to expand our outreach to more qualified candidates.

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING & COLLABORATION

Employee satisfaction survey and policies which support work life balance and flexible work schedules. Ongoing support for county employee collaboration opportunities through the County Connects and all-staff summer appreciation event.



KFA 2 INVESTMENTS

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW COURTHOUSE PLANNING EFFORTS

Communications and outreach consultant work for a future new courthouse building and Sheriff headquarters.

JUVENILE DETENTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Assess facility options and capacities of current Juvenile Detention programs.

RISK, SAFETY, SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Assessment of Continental Building for risk and safety, ADA corrections countywide, and improving the security posture of technology infrastructure.

DATA ACCURACY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Geographic Information Services mapping improvement efforts.



KFA 3 INVESTMENTS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

EXPAND CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

Continue adding Crisis Response Team members until CRT is available countywide 24/7.

NEW RECOVERY & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Using behavioral health sales tax funding and opioid settlement dollars, expanding recovery housing and creating first transitional housing offering in Skagit County.

THERAPEUTIC COURT & RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Reduce recidivism by increasing therapeutic court participation and re-entry services for Community Justice Center.

IMPLEMENT CASE CONSULT MODEL

Working with Coordinated Entry partners to quickly identify and house the most vulnerable households.



KFA 4 INVESTMENTS

*HEALTH, HOUSING,
& COMMUNITY SAFETY*

MOUNT VERNON SENIOR CENTER ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Mount Vernon Senior Center property for potential affordable housing and senior center joint project.

WORKFORCE HOUSING GRANT AWARDS

Use of Economic Development Funds to provide grant awards to affordable workforce housing projects in the community.

SKAGIT SHERIFF DRUG TASK FORCE

Continued support of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force.

REOPENING OF YUDWASTA PARK

Acquisition and development of new acreage for Yudwasta Park, reopening in Spring 2026.



KFA 5 INVESTMENTS

*SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT
COUNTY GOVERNMENT*

COUNTY BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Increase financial transparency by launching Euna OpenBook website to display County budget as well as actual revenues and expenditures online.

NEW WEBSITE

Launch of new website in 2026 to improve customer service and ensure our website has software support for continued operation.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

Broad emergency management and response training to county employees and partner agencies to ensure we are able to effectively respond together.

CULVERT BARRIER REPLACEMENT

Continued replacement of culvert barriers with fish passable structures throughout the county.



HB 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX

- New 0.1% public safety sales tax adopted Nov. 10th and will begin collection on April 1, 2026.
- Funding will be used primarily for Sheriff's Office investigation detectives, park ranger, and expansion of crisis response services countywide.



HOW TO COMMENT

*Preliminary Budget Online at:
www.skagitcounty.net/budgetfinance*

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments may be submitted by email or mail ATT: 2026 Budget.

Email: commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us

Mail: 1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

*Written comments due by
December 1st at 4:30 pm*

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be hosted on Monday, December 1st, at 10:00 AM

The public may join in the Commissioners' Hearing Room or virtually via Zoom.

*Zoom link online at:
www.skagitcounty.net/commissioners*

QUESTIONS?

COMMISSIONERS@CO.SKAGIT.WA.US

