



**King County**

**John Wilson**  
King County Assessor

# ***News Release***

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Date: June 19, 2019

## **Property Valuation Notices Are in the Mail; Value Increases Show Signs of Easing**

The King County Department of Assessments has begun the annual process of mailing property valuation notices to over 700,000 residential and business property owners which show property values as of January 1, 2019. Mailings will start this week and continue weekly through the fall until all areas have been mailed.

After double digit increases in recent years, increases to property values moderated in 2018, with most areas seeing low single digit increases, although some neighborhoods still saw substantial increases.

Specific value changes will vary based on the area, and the characteristics of the property. King County sets property values for residential property based on sales of comparable properties.

Rising property values does not necessarily mean commensurate increases in property taxes. King County Assessor John Wilson, reminded taxpayers that decisions made by elected officials and voters, not rising values, are usually the cause of increasing property taxes.

“Most people don’t realize that the fluctuating value of your property has less to do with changes in your tax bill, than do changes in state law and measures approved by voters,” said Wilson. “Decisions made by lawmakers and voters determine the total amount of tax to be collected in your area; the value of your property determines your share of that total amount.”

Wilson continues to encourage property owners to sign up to receive their annual property valuation notice via email instead of through the USPS. This electronic valuation notice program is convenient for property owners, will save money for the Department of Assessments, and is environmentally friendly.

To sign up, go to [kingcounty.gov/assessor](http://kingcounty.gov/assessor) and click on the **Go Paperless** window for details. Paperless notifications saves taxpayer dollars in staff time, materials and postage.

Property owners who believe their assessment may be incorrect can appeal to the King County Board of Equalization (BOE). This must be done within 60 days of the date on the valuation notice. Appeals can be filed on-line. Details are available at [www.kingcounty.gov/assessor](http://www.kingcounty.gov/assessor), and at the BOE at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/board-of-appeals/about.aspx>.

State law requires each county assessor to revalue property annually, and to conduct an on-site inspection of each property at least once during every six-year cycle. Property values are determined by accredited appraisers who assess property based on comparable sales, and various attributes of a particular property.

**NEWS MEDIA: FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSESSOR, CONTACT:**

Al Dams, Chief Deputy Assessor at 206-263-2255