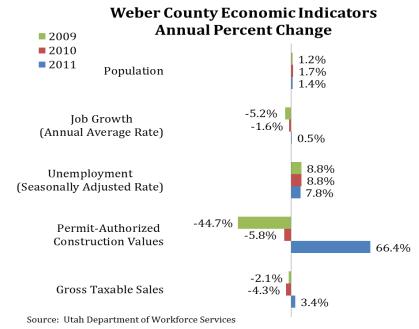
### 2011 Economic Condition and Results of Operations

After three years of job losses, employers in Weber County posted a modest 0.5% net increase in employment for calendar year 2011. Gains in manufacturing, education services, and health care services were nearly offset by continued job losses in construction, financial services, and government. The County's unemployment rate averaged 7.8% for the year, compared to 9.0% nationally and 6.7% for Utah. Fortunately, Weber County's employment base crosses many sectors and does not rely on just one industry to create and maintain jobs.



Much of the economic anxiety of the last three years has been driven by a housing market that has not yet fully recovered. From 1999 through 2007, new building permits for single-family dwelling units averaged over 1,000 units per year. Since 2008, however, new permits have averaged only 307 single-family units per year, and the value of new residential construction has dropped an average of 16% per year. In contrast, new nonresidential construction values rose \$101 million (157%) in 2011 due to continued development of Ogden City's downtown business district. Taxable sales grew 3.4%, the first increase in three years and a positive sign that consumers may feel more confident about the overall economy. Still, with a lingering unease among residents and businesses about future conditions, the County expects only minimal growth in property and sales tax revenues for the next two years.

In spite of an uncertain economy, Weber County's financial condition remains stable. During 2011, total revenues increased \$1.7 million (1.5%) over the prior year, due mostly to new property and sales tax

revenue growth from a slightly improving economy. Total expenditures decreased for the third year in a row, falling \$314,000 (0.3%) as employee turnover offset a small increase in health insurance and retirement costs and budgets were held to the prior year's level. The County also retired \$7.15 million of long-term debt during 2011 and maintains a bond rating of Aa2 from Moody's Investor Service, which is two notches below the top rating of Aaa.

Although the County's near-term revenue outlook is uncertain, budget surpluses from prior years have built healthy balances in all of the County's operating funds that can absorb any short-term revenue shortfalls. With traditionally conservative fiscal management and a diversified employment base, Weber County is well-positioned to realize steady long-term economic growth.



#### CLERK/AUDITOR'S MESSAGE

This annual *Report to Citizens* is compiled by the Weber County Clerk/Auditor Office to provide you with summary information regarding the financial activities of the County in an easy-to-understand fashion. We are pleased to have citizens and customers who care about their county, and we hope this information will help you become better informed about the financial condition of your county government.

Weber County's officials are committed to following sound budget management practices to keep the County's finances stable and tax rates as low as possible. For twenty consecutive years, Weber County has earned national recognition by receiving the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA certificate is the highest form of recognition in state and local government accounting and financial reporting. We are dedicated to this effort, and we commit to maintain a highly qualified and professional staff to make this certification possible.

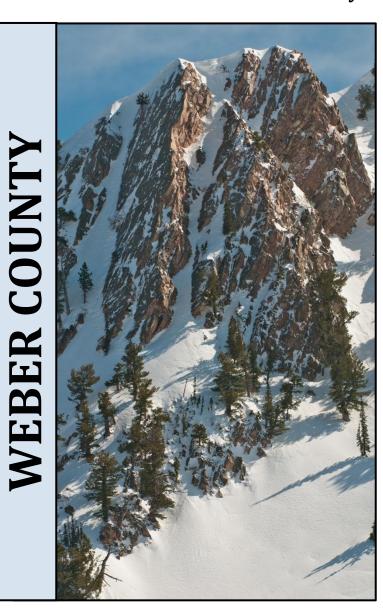
Anyone desiring a copy of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) may contact our office at 801-399-8400, or visit us online at <a href="https://www.co.weber.ut.us/Clerk Auditor">www.co.weber.ut.us/Clerk Auditor</a>. We are committed to improving this *Report to Citizens*, and we encourage your input and support.

Sincerely

Ricky D. Hatch, CPA Clerk/Auditor

# REPORT TO CITIZENS

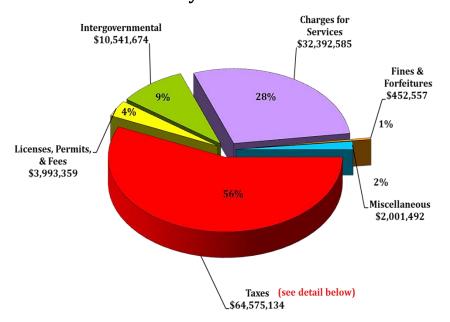
**Weber County Clerk/Auditor** 2011 Financial Performance Summary



**June 2012** 

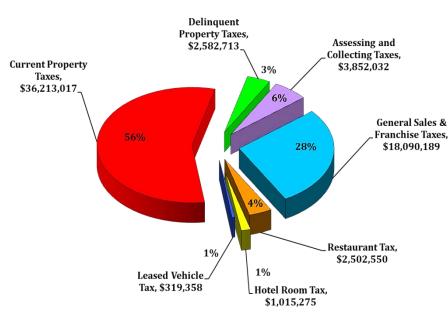
## REVENUES

# Where County Dollars Come From



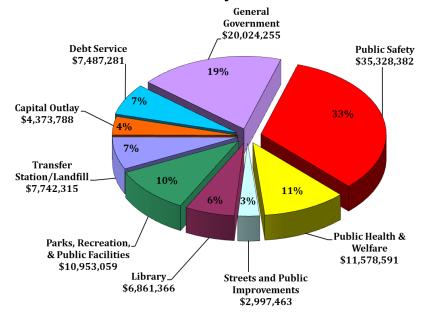
Total 2011 Revenues: \$ 113,956,801

### **Taxes in Greater Detail**



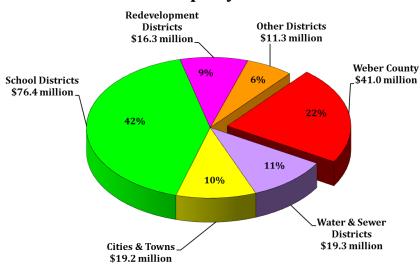
## **EXPENDITURES**

## Where County Dollars Go



**Total 2011 Expenditures: \$ 107,346,500** 

## Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go

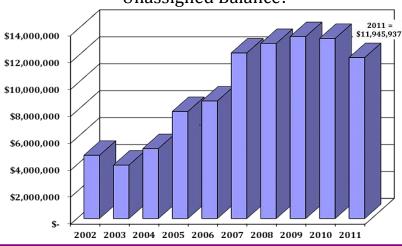


Total 2011 Property Taxes Charged: \$183,498,094

## **GENERAL FUND**

The General Fund accounts for the general and administrative operations of the County including public safety, corrections, criminal prosecution, elections, recreation, and the departments of all elected officials. The fund balance contains amounts that can be used to run county government in the near term as well as reserves held for future contingencies. The General Fund's 2011 unassigned fund balance of \$11.9 million equals 21% of the current year's General Fund revenues and is above the industry's recommended level of 10% to 15% of revenues.

What is the Ten Year Trend in the General Fund Unassigned Balance?



What is the Ten Year Trend in the General Fund Property Tax Rate?

