

## PRESS RELEASE

2014-15 Columbia County Property Tax Statements  
October 7, 2014  
Sue Martin, Columbia County Assessor

The 2014-15 Columbia County Assessment and Tax Roll has been certified and property tax bills will be mailed on October 16, 2014 to Columbia County property owners.

Between January 1, 2013 and January 1, 2014, real market values for residential properties countywide increased an average of 1.5%. Residential properties within the City of Vernonia had the highest average increase at 24% while rural properties outside the city limits of Clatskanie experienced the largest average decrease at -9%.

There were two local option levies approved by voters this year. Columbia 911 renewed their local option levy at the same rate of 29 cents per thousand of assessed value that they levied the last five years. Columbia County's local option levy for jail operations was passed for three years at a rate of 57.97 cents per thousand of assessed value.

Property tax statements for residential properties in the Scappoose area will reflect real market values changes due to a reappraisal for the 2014-15 tax year. This reappraisal consisted mainly of curbside inspections by registered county property appraisers unless major changes were noted that required a more detailed inspection.

A total of \$64,770,613 in property taxes are being billed for the county, cities, schools and special districts. That amount is 9.70 percent more than was billed last year. In addition, a total of \$1,366,279 will be collected for such things as drainage district assessments and the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire patrol special assessments. That amount is 10.40 percent higher than last year.

Countywide, the market value of all taxable property increased from \$5.71 billion to \$5.88 billion, an increase of 3.00 percent. The total tax assessed value this year is \$4.56 billion or 3.48 percent higher than last year.

Additional statistics are available on the county's website at [www.co.columbia.or.us/departments/assessors-office/assessors-home](http://www.co.columbia.or.us/departments/assessors-office/assessors-home) including the most recent ratio study, two year comparison of each districts property tax revenue, the Summary of Assessment and Levies (sal) tables 4a (Detail of Taxing District Levies), and 4e (Detail of Urban Renewal Plan Areas By Taxing District), the Top 20 Taxpayers in Columbia County, and the 2014-15 Summary of Assessment and Tax Roll.

The first payment of the tax bill is due on Monday, November 17, 2014. At least one third of the amount is due at that time. Payments can be made at the tax office in the courthouse on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm.