

James P. Hagarty

Prosecuting Attorney



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Dear Voters and Taxpayers of Yakima County:

The law and justice sales tax is an essential source of funding for the Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Without passage of the law and justice sales tax in 2005 and again in 2009, our office would have been unable to manage our criminal caseload and would have had to reduce our services to crime victims.

With the ongoing poor economy, there is less consumer spending in Yakima County. This has resulted in lower sales tax revenues, and our share of the law and justice sales tax is less than it has been in the previous years. Our allocation of the county's general fund budget has also been reduced. Despite these reductions, the hard work and dedication by the members of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, we continue to provide effective services to the citizens of Yakima County.

In the last year, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has used our share of the tax for:

- Employees: We have been able to fund 11 deputy prosecuting attorneys, a paralegal, a senior program representative, an office specialist and an office technician position. This is one sixth of our total number of employees.
- New Computer Program: We have purchased a new program for sending criminal case materials to defense attorneys as required by law. This new program allows us to send the materials quickly and securely through the Internet.
- Miscellaneous Costs: The tax has also funded other costs of the office, including appeal costs, trial experts, language services, witness travel, training, and extradition costs (transporting defendants from another state).

A mission of the Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney is to judiciously represent the interests of the people of Yakima County and the State of Washington. The resource that you provide through the law and justice sales tax is critical to the continuation of this commitment to the residents of Yakima County. We understand that accountability and being good stewards of the law and justice sales tax revenue is extremely important. We believe that we have been responsible and careful stewards of your monies since the initial passage of the law and justice sales tax in 2005, and pledge to continue to do so in the future. Your continued support to this office, and all of the criminal justice agencies in Yakima County, is sincerely appreciated.

James P. Hagarty
Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney