Why did my 2011 property taxes go up when my assessed value went down? About a third of Clallam County’s property taxes are levies approved by voters for such services as schools, library, fire services, and emergency medical services. If voters approve new or increased replacement levies, property taxes in the affected tax districts may increase even though assessed values decreased. Reflected on the 2011 tax statements are six new or increased replacement levies recently approved by the voters:

1. The North Olympic Library System levy (approved by voters on August 17, 2010) increased the levy rate to 50 cents, from last year’s 33 cents, per $1,000 value;
2. The Sequim School District Maintenance and Operations levy (approved by voters on February 9, 2010) increased the levy rate to 99 cents, from last year’s 77 cents, per $1,000 value;
3. The Fire District 3 Emergency Medical Services levy (approved by voters on November 3, 2009) increased the levy rate to 50 cents, from last year’s 28 cents, per $1,000 value;
4. The Fire District 4 levy (approved by voters on February 9, 2010) increased the levy rate to 76 cents, from last year’s 32 cents, per $1,000 value;
5. The Fire District 6 levy (approved by voters on November 2, 2010) increased the levy rate to 90 cents, from last year’s 52 cents, per $1,000 value; and
6. The Cape Flattery School District Maintenance and Operations levy (approved by voters on February 9, 2010) increased the levy rate to $2.63, from last year’s $2.49, per $1,000 value.

The replacement Port Angeles School District Maintenance and Operations levy (approved by voters on February 8, 2011) and the replacement Quillayute Valley School District Maintenance and Operations levy (approved by voters on February 8, 2011) will also result in increased levy rates, to be reflected on the 2012 tax statements.

Where do my property taxes go? While the Clallam County Treasurer is charged with collecting all property taxes, only 13 cents of every property tax dollar supports the Clallam County General Fund. The other 87 cents is divided between the Schools, Cities, Hospitals, County Roads, Port, Fire Districts, Library, and other local jurisdictions. The following pie chart indicates the destination of the $75.5 million in property taxes that the 2011 tax statements seek to collect:

In addition, the 2011 tax statements seek to collect personal property taxes due on businesses and mobile homes, as well as assessments for four irrigation districts, stormwater assessments for the City of Port Angeles, noxious weed control assessments for the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board and the Lake Sutherland Management District, and fire patrol fees for the Department of Natural Resources.