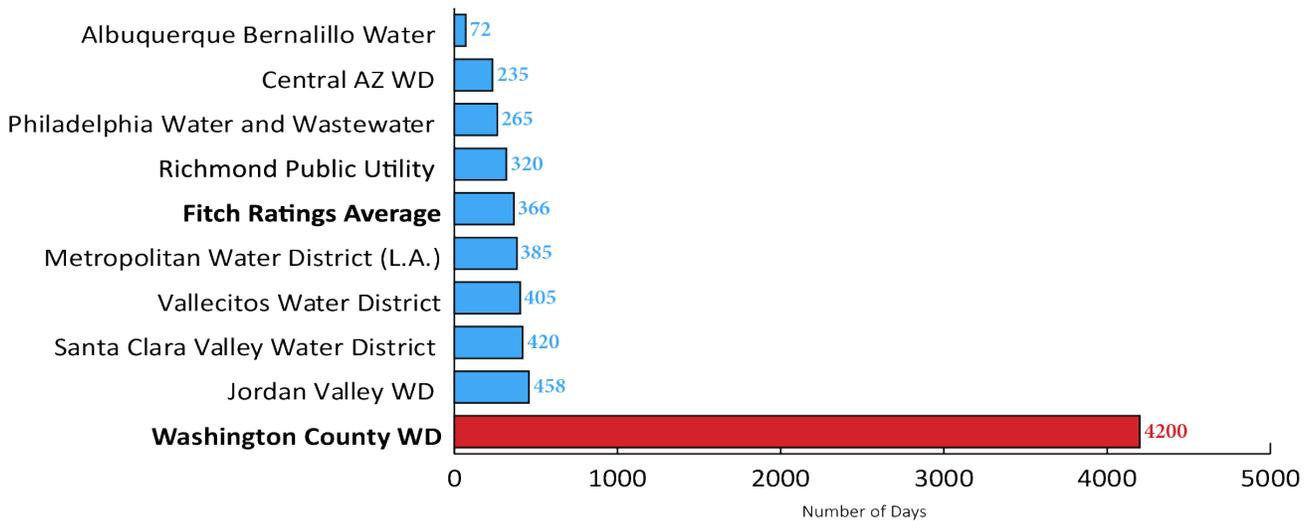


Utah Agency Hoarding Massive Amounts of Taxpayer Cash

Why increase property taxes while sitting on unheard of reserves of unrestricted cash?

The Washington County Water District is proposing yet another property tax rate increase to take place in December 2018. The District has **4,200 days of cash on hand**, nearly **12 times the average**, allowing them to operate for almost 12 years without making any revenue. This means the District could import and treat water, deliver water to customers, pay staff, and keep the lights on until after the year 2030 without collecting a single cent.

**Days Cash On Hand for U.S. Water Providers
2018**



Compared to other public water providers, it's clear that Washington County's cash reserves are not normal.

The graph above shows Days Cash On Hand for water providers across the U.S. The information was taken from financial reports and bond ratings agencies. Best practices for water suppliers are to have 90-180 days of cash on hand to be in good operational standing. According to Fitch Ratings, the median days of cash on hand for A-rated water and sewer systems in 2015 were 366.

Make Your Voice Heard at the Public Hearing on Tax Increase

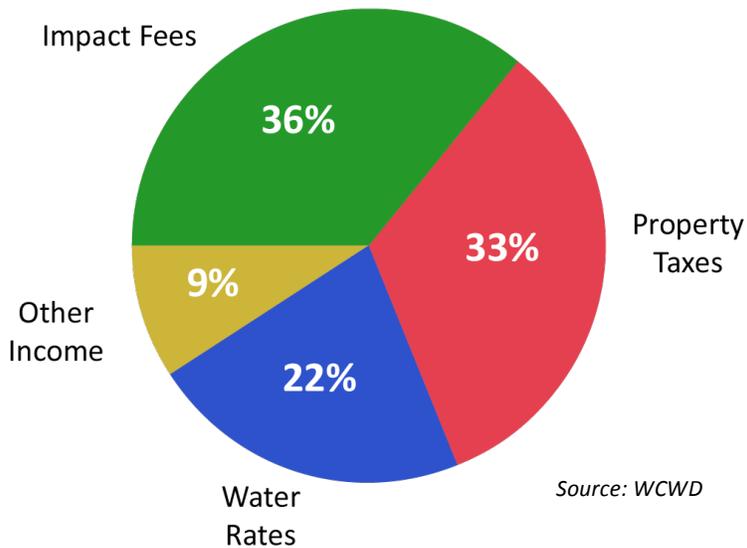
**December 5th at 6pm
Washington County Water District
533 E Waterworks Dr.
St. George, UT 84770**

The District's goal is to raise taxes to a rate of .001 by 2030, the **maximum limit allowed per Utah state law, nearly doubling their tax revenues**. The District's tax rate is currently at .0006. This proposed increase would raise the District's property tax revenue by 7%, bringing in an additional \$650,000 each year.

Why is the Washington County Water District raising property taxes?

Utah is unique in collecting property taxes from homeowners and businesses to lower the price of water below the cost of delivery. These taxes are why Utah has America’s cheapest water rates—and why Utah is one of the nation’s most wasteful water users.

Washington County Water District Revenues



WCWD makes more money collecting property taxes than from selling water to customers, but they are proposing to raise taxes again. Less than 25 cents of every dollar for the District comes from selling water.

Because they collect property taxes, sometimes in excess of \$11,000,000 per year, the District is able to sell water at below-market rates. While cheap water rates sound like a good thing for consumers, they are not getting a good deal because these taxes subsidize the water use of larger landowners and all universities, schools, government golf courses and other entities who pay no taxes at all. Most taxpayers do not realize they are paying unnecessarily high taxes to the WCWD, who in turn stuffs the cash in their coffers.

The District says they can’t phase out property taxes and increase water rates, but **80% of Western water suppliers do not collect property taxes** to subsidize water use. Why is there a need to continuously raise property taxes?

Utah’s high water use is used to create the illusion of a future water shortage to justify spending even more tax dollars on expensive water projects, like the proposed \$3+ billion Lake Powell Pipeline. The only group not profiting from this tax and spend merry-go-round are the taxpayers.