

**Budget Analysis - Clark County, Washington**

Cynthia D. Williams

School

Course

Instructor

Date

## **Budget Analysis – Clark County, Washington**

Clark County is in the southernmost county in the U.S. state of Washington. This County is known as one of the biggest provinces in the Washington expansive area. Hence, it is the leading province in the provision of services to nearby towns and the entire state. Clark County maintains budgetary controls, with a by-yearly set spending plan to ensure consistency. These controls remain vital in guaranteeing that the County is consistent with the Country's constitutional provisions and laws. Spending plans meant for legislative uses are designed as per the state's rules and regulations. These plans are further received on a funding level, apart from the General funding that is tightly tied to the official tier.

In 2017 - 2018, the General Fund revenues increased \$6.6 million from 2017 to 2018, while expenditures increased \$1.8 million during the same period. The largest increase in General Fund revenue in 2018 came from a \$5.7 million increase in sales tax revenues, due to improvements in the economy and an upswing in home building and the construction industry. In conjunction with this was also a \$1.0 million increase in property tax revenue. A notable gain of \$0.9 million in intergovernmental revenues was also recorded. (Clark County, Washington, 2016).

In 2019, the General Fund's total fund balance decreased \$1.0 million, from \$37.5 million in 2018 to \$36.4 million in 2019. In 2019, \$13.2 million was transferred out to other funds, compared to \$9.3 million in 2018. There was a net \$0.6 million decrease of unassigned fund balance in the General Fund at the end of 2019. Total assets decreased \$2.1 million in 2019, over 2018. Due to timing of receivables as well as evaluating and classifying the receivables due from other governments, other funds and external agencies, amounts due from other funds and other governments, combined, increased \$2.7 million, while accounts receivable

decreased \$4.6 million. Cash and investments and deposits in trust, combined, at the end of the year were \$1.1 million higher than at the end of 2018. Taxes receivable decreased \$0.6 million over combined taxes receivable at the end of 2018, as a result of the overall increase in tax revenue. (Clark County, Washington, 2018)

In 2020, the General Fund's total fund balance decreased \$(4.8) million, from \$36.4 million in 2019 to \$31.6 million in 2020. In 2020, \$14.9 million was transferred out to other funds, compared to \$13.2 million in 2019. There was a net \$(1.1) million decrease of unassigned fund balance in the General Fund at the end of 2020. Total assets decreased \$(6.3) million in 2020, over 2019. Cash and investments and deposits in trust, combined, at the end of the year were \$(7.3) lower than at the end of 2019. Taxes receivable increased \$0.8 million over combined taxes receivable at the end of 2019, as a result of the overall increase in tax revenue. (Clark County, Washington, 2019)

### **Clark County's Financial Policy and Ethical Practices**

The County's financial approaches remain paramount to ensuring excellent monetary management, control, as well as planning. Clark County always surveys and controls all rates and charges bi-annually to determine if they operate in line with established regulations. The County also performs inspections to ensure that charge structures are updated as often as possible to maintain compliance with laws (Clark County, Washington, n.d.). Besides, any suggested rates and charge structures must be confirmed by a committee of trustees and other required bodies as outlined under the Clark County bylaws (Clark County, Washington, 2015). The County's financial policies place obligatory and necessary controls on tax charges and costs to ensure that people comply accordingly. Regularly, fees and charges, as well as expenses are designed appropriately to reduce the chances of locals defying the laws. In this regard, Clark

County's financial policies integrate ethical standards, including expanding income sources. It has also put lawful caps on different taxes, including permits, as well as licenses to protect people from any abuse.

### **Revenue Sources Opportunities and Challenges**

One of the County's revenue source opportunities is sales tax. Over the last three years, the County's sales tax has increased incredibly, indicating that the County has a substantial capacity to increase its incomes each year. The number of immigrants to this county has almost doubled over the last decade, increasing the level of revenue collection. Immigrants contribute positively to the County's income generation. Gaming activities have equally increased in the country over the years, increasing the level of revenue buildup and social improvements.

### References

Clark County, Washington. (2016, October 3). *2017 – 2018 Budget*. <https://example.com>

Clark County, Washington. (2018, October 2). *2019 Budget*. <https://example.com>

Clark County, Washington. (2019, October 1). *2020 Budget*. <https://example.com>

Clark County, Washington. (2015, August 4). *Laws*. <https://example.com>

Clark County, Washington (n.d.). *Clark County Code*. <https://example.com>