

Debt Administration

State Finance Committee

The Debt Management Section of the Office of the State Treasurer provides staff support to the State Finance Committee. The committee is composed of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State Treasurer, the latter being designated by law as chairman. By statutory provision, the committee is delegated authority to supervise and control the issuance of all state bonds.

Bond Program

During fiscal year 2015, the State Finance Committee sold \$653.8 million in new money Various Purpose General Obligation bonds and \$199.9 million in new Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax General Obligation bonds. Bonds were issued for various capital and transportation projects.

During fiscal year 2015, the state also executed refunding sales: \$1.61 billion various purpose general obligation refunding bonds and \$1 billion motor vehicle fuel tax general obligation refunding bonds. On a present value basis, savings over the life of the refunded bonds total \$274.6 million. Debt service savings in the 2015-2017 biennium total \$31.5 million and savings in the 2017-2019 biennium total \$35.2 million.

Outstanding long-term bonded debt as of June 30, 2015 totaled \$19.7 billion. Included in this total is \$518.8 million in "Triple Pledge Bonds" and \$786.3 million in Federal Highway Grant Anticipation Revenue Bonds (GARVEE). The Triple Pledge Bonds are first payable from toll revenue, then state excise taxes on motor vehicle and special fuels, and finally from the state's full faith and credit.

General obligation debt is subject to constitutional limitations as prescribed by the Washington State Constitution. As of June 30, 2015, the aggregate debt contracted by the state did not exceed that amount for which payments of principal and interest in any fiscal year would require the state to expend more than nine percent of the arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for the three immediately preceding fiscal years. The arithmetic mean of its general state revenues for fiscal years 2009 through 2014 is \$14,793,931,612. The debt service limitation, eight and one-half percent of this mean, is \$1,257,484,187. The state's maximum annual debt service as of June 30, 2015, on debt service subject to the constitutional debt limitation is \$1,129,181,961 or \$128,302,226 less than the debt service limitation.

Lease Purchase Program

The Office of the State Treasurer administers the state Lease/Purchase Program that provides state agencies with an alternative way to finance essential real estate and equipment over a multi-year period. The program uses standardized documentation which allows financing contracts to be consolidated or "pooled" and sold to investors as Certificates of Participation (COPs). By pooling financing requests, the state is able to realize substantial savings through economies of scale and access to lower tax-exempt interest rates.

Since 1998, the Lease/Purchase program has been extended to local governments in the Local Option Capital Asset Lending Program (LOCAL). The LOCAL program provides economies of scale, the state's COP rating, and standardized documentation. LOCAL has financed 626 equipment transactions totaling \$157.5 million and 79 real estate transactions for \$67.2 million on behalf of more than 321 local governments.

As of June 30, there were \$637.4 million in outstanding COPs. Underlying this amount were financing contracts in the amounts of \$563.4 million for 63 state agencies and \$74 million for 157 local governments.

School Bond Guarantee Program

During the 1999 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature created a Washington State school bond credit enhancement program. The program's purpose is to provide savings to state taxpayers by pledging the full faith and credit of the state of Washington to the payment of voter-approved school district general obligation bonds.

Since its implementation in 2000, the program has been widely used by school districts. As of June 30, 2015, bonds totaling over \$18.4 billion have been issued by 217 school districts under the program, with \$9.33 billion outstanding.