



**KNOX COUNTY
TENNESSEE**



**POPULAR ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2024**

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A Note from the Mayor

I'm excited to share with you some of the things that make this area the best place to live, work, and a raise a family.

Aside from our genuine southern hospitality and volunteer spirit, we put an emphasis on jobs, education, and recreation, and we are committed to creating opportunities for everyone to thrive in an engaged and vibrant community.

What people love most about Knox County – what brings and keeps them here – is that we support business and economic development, provide high-quality educational opportunities for all, and actively promote the outdoor tourism and recreation assets for which we are known.

We offer a close proximity to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

We feature great local shops, restaurants, and breweries – and not just the ones downtown, but those at the far ends of the county as well. We also are home to the Blount Mansion – widely recognized as the “Birthplace of Tennessee” – where several years ago we celebrated the state’s 225th birthday.

Knox County also boasts many great entertainment venues, including the Historic Bijou and Tennessee theatres. No matter what you’re into, there’s something for you here in Knox County.

Whether you’re looking for health, business, economic or educational benefits, Knox County has it all.

Sincerely,



Glenn Jacobs
Knox County Mayor





ABOUT THE PAFR

The Knox County Department of Finance is proud to present this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This report provides summarized information about the County's financial activities and is intended to give readers an overview of the County and its finances.

Although the PAFR is not audited, the financial information reported is based on the audited 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The Department of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the ACFR.

The ACFR contains three basic sections: The Introductory section, which provides general information on the government's structure, personnel, economic situation and finances; The Financial section, which includes information on fund types, individual funds, and account groups; The Statistical section, which provides a broad range of trend data covering key financial indicators from the past ten fiscal years. The report also contains demographic and miscellaneous data useful in assessing the County's financial situation.

The governmental funds presented in this report are in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The County also maintains other smaller funds that are not presented here. See the ACFR for complete details on all County funds. The 2024 ACFR is available online at https://knoxcounty.org/finance/annual_reports.php

GFOA AWARDS

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

The Government Finance Officer Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Knox County Government for its annual comprehensive financial report, from which the information on pages 16-21 has been drawn, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This was the 28th consecutive year that our government has achieved this prestigious award. To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized, annual comprehensive financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.



The County has also received, for the 29th consecutive time, the GFOA Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its 2024 Annual Operating Budget. In qualifying for this award, the County's budget document was judged to be proficient in several categories, including policy documentation, financial planning, and organization.

The County received the GFOA's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR award) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The award represents a significant achievement by the County. Each eligible report is reviewed by judges who evaluate the report based on the following categories: reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity, and other elements.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting

Presented to

**Knox County
Tennessee**

For its Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2023

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO

KNOX COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Knox County is governed by an eleven-member board of commissioners, elected by district and at-large in partisan countywide elections held in August of even-numbered years. Commissioners serve four-year terms.



The board's primary duties are to adopt ordinances, emergency ordinances, and resolutions governing the operation of government or to regulate the conduct and affairs of the residents of Knox County. Each member of the Knox County Commission serves all Knox Countians eagerly and are happy to be of assistance to you

Mission & Vision

Knox County's mission is to provide superior public service and support in an efficient and fiscally responsible way so that all residents can improve their quality of life while enjoying the benefits of a vibrant community. We believe that if we focus on transparency, invest in education and partner with our stakeholders, we will be able to create a pervasive culture of community vitality that guides us to becoming the workforce development center of East Tennessee.



Gina Oster

3rd District Commissioner
Madam Chair
1st Term: 2022-2026



Shane Jackson

4th District Commissioner
1st Term: 2024-2028



Adam Thompson

8th District Commissioner
1st Term: 2024-2028



Kim Frazier

At Large Seat 11
Commissioner
Vice-Chair
1st Term: 2022-2026



Angela Russell

5th District Commissioner
1st Term: 2024-2028



Andy Fox

9th District Commissioner
1st Term: 2024-2028



Damon Rawls

1st District Commissioner
1st Term: 2024-2028



Terry Hill

6th District Commissioner
2nd Term: 2024-2028



Larsen Jay

At Large Seat 10
Commissioner
2nd Term: 2022-2026



Courtney Durrett

2nd District Commissioner
2nd Term: 2024-2028

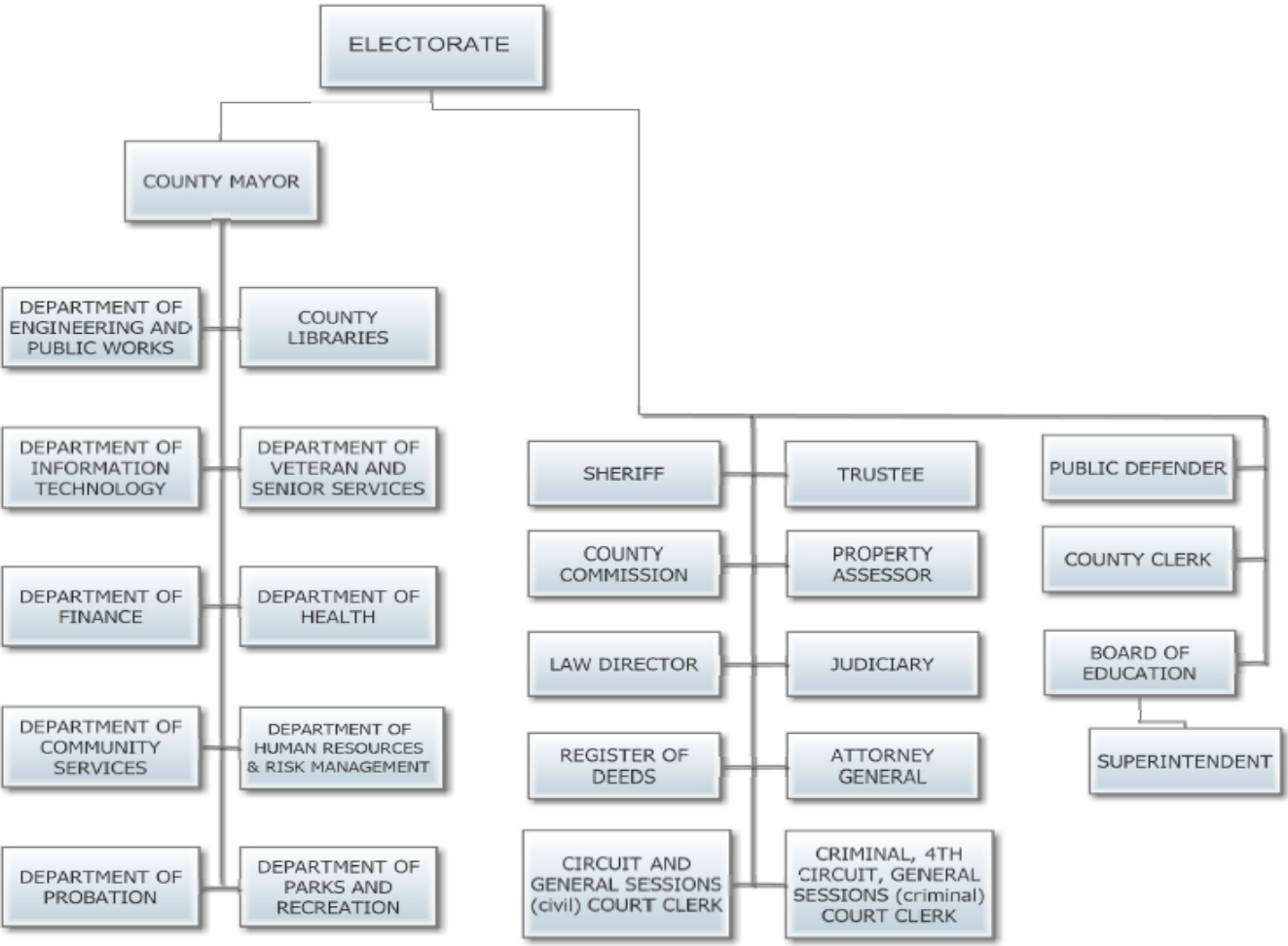


Rhonda Lee

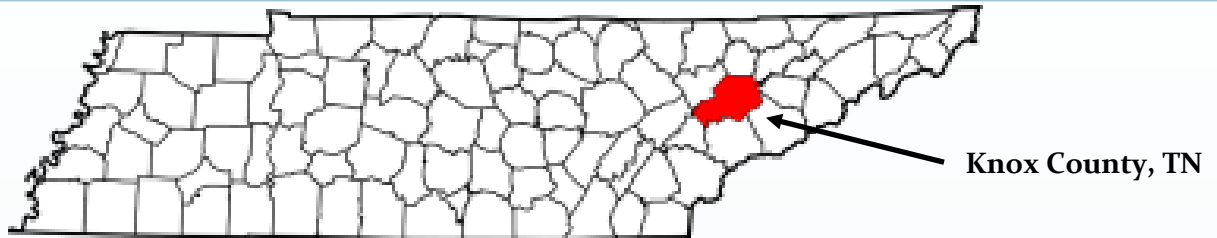
7th District Commissioner
1st Term: 2022-2026



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



KNOX COUNTY AT- A- GLANCE



History

Knox County was created on June 11, 1792, by Governor William Blount from parts of Greene and Hawkins counties, and has the distinction of being one of only eight counties created during territorial administration. It is one of nine United States counties named for American Revolutionary War general and first United States Secretary of War Henry Knox. Parts of Knox County later became Blount (1795), Anderson (1801), Roane (1801), and Union (1850) counties.



LIVABILITY

Knoxville ranks among the nation’s best places to live, raise a family, and own a business. In 2024, it was ranked #2 “Best Places to Live in Tennessee” by U.S. News. In addition, USA Today ranked Knoxville the 2nd best arts district in the country in 2024, outshining several major cities like Chicago and Denver.

Civic Organizations

The Knoxville Chamber has more than 2,200 members. United Way, Community Shares, and Community Action Committee support many youth, family, and social service programs. More than 250 neighborhood associations and many civic groups are active throughout the city and county.

KNOX COUNTY AT- A- GLANCE

EDUCATION

Included in Knox County’s public schools are several Magnet, STEM, and International Baccalaureate programs. Knox County is also home to Tennessee School for the Deaf, serving toddlers through age 22 in both residential and day programs.

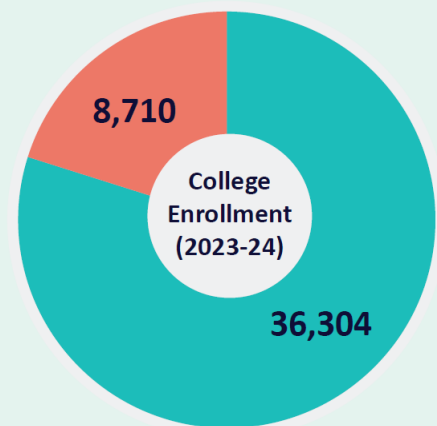
KNOX COUNTY ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOLS

Demographics (2022-23)

Public schools.....	93
Enrollment.....	58,873
Teachers.....	4,592
Student/Educator Ratio.....	12.8

Metrics (2021-2022)

Per pupil expenditures.....	\$10,683
Graduation rate.....	90.1%
Average ACT (composite).....	20.1
Private schools.....	37



■ The University of Tennessee
■ Pellissippi State Community College

39.2%

Knox County population with bachelor’s degree or higher

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Four two-year colleges and 10 four-year universities are located in Knox County and surrounding area. The University of Tennessee is ranked 51st among the nation’s top public schools by U.S. News and World Report.





THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF KNOX COUNTY IS INSPIRED BY THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE ADOPTED IN 1801, HIGHLIGHTING THE FACT THAT **KNOXVILLE** (AND KNOX COUNTY) WAS THE **FIRST CAPITAL OF TENNESSEE**. IN 1843 NASHVILLE BECAME THE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF TENNESSEE.

5 GENERAL

HOSPITALS

1 CHILDREN'S

HOSPITAL



COST OF LIVING (2024)

Metropolitan Area **86.7**

U.S. Average **100**

526

KNOX AREA IN SQUARE MILES

KNOX COUNTY WATER TRAIL

44

MILES OF NAVIGABLE WATER



3rd

LARGEST COUNTY IN THE STATE

5 AIRLINES

99 FLIGHTS

23 DESTINATIONS

2.6 M PASSENGERS ANNUALLY



MEDIAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES PRICE (JUNE 2024)

Metro Area \$375,000

Knox County \$402,000

THINGS TO DO IN KNOXVILLE

WWW.VISITKNOXVILLE.COM

3.2%

UNEMPLOYMENT

POPULATION

500,669

ESTIMATED

2.8% increase in average annual wage per worker Q1 2024

\$86,397 average household annual income.

- 49 Radio Stations
- 16 Television Stations
- 5 Movie Theaters
- 11 Live performance Theaters

PARK AND RECREATION (2024) KNOXVILLE AND KNOX COUNTY

Park acreage.....	6,414
Greenways/hiking/biking trails (miles).....	218
Recreation/community centers.....	17
Senior centers.....	8
Skate parks.....	5
Dog parks.....	13
Public golf courses.....	8
Public disc golf courses.....	7
Bike parks.....	1



Oak Ridge National Laboratory,

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the site of the world's fastest supercomputer and the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facility, employing 5,700 with an annual operating budget of around \$2.4 billion.



HIGHWAY (2024)
Interstates
 40, 75, 81, 140, 275, and 640

Average Daily Trips
 (I-40/75 in Knox County)
 211,587

Trucking Companies
 250+



BUS (2023)
Knoxville Area Transit
 23 routes/1,100 stops

KAT Passengers and Vehicles
 2.1 million passengers/92 vehicles
 (12 electric buses, 23 hybrids)

Long-distance
 Trailways



RAIL (2024)
Systems (Knox County)
 CSX, Norfolk Southern,
 KXHR-Gulf & Ohio

Miles of Lines (Knox County)
 270

WATER (2023)
Cargo through Fort Loudoun Lock
 564,510 tons



AIR (2022-23)

Airlines
 Allegiant, American, Delta,
 Frontier, United

Daily Flights and Non-stop Destinations
 99 flights/23 destinations

Passengers (annual)
 2,628,222

Cargo Services and Freight
 2 services/80,624,659 pounds



Knoxville Museum of Art, Emporium Center for Arts and Culture, East Tennessee History Center, McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, Museum of Appalachia, and Beck Cultural Exchange Center showcase art and regional heritage .
Muse is an experiential children's science museum



MAJOR INITIATIVES



- ◆ Knox County will also see major road and safety improvements throughout the area and at major interchanges.
- ◆ Creating the Knox County Water Trail - a 44-mile stretch of navigable water access across five communities between Clayton Park in Halls and Melton Hill in Hardin Valley.



- ◆ Creating a Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan for the county and a specific Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.
- ◆ Working on French Board Veterans Memorial Park, an 8.5-acre site along a bluff overlooking the French Broad River and the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery where veterans and their families can pay tribute to their brothers and sisters who have gone before them.
- ◆ Entered Phase 3 of the Schaad Road project with an estimated cost of more than 445.7 million and runs from Middlebrook to Oak Ridge Highway.
- ◆ The current phase has a construction contract value of 45.7 million - Middlebrook to Glen Lake Subdivision.
- ◆ 12 million in total right-of-way costs for the entire corridor (Middlebrook to I-75). We include Callahan as part of the project and the total project cost.
- ◆ 18 million is the total estimate of construction for the upcoming phase (Oak Ridge Highway to Pleasant Ridge).
- ◆ The current construction value of completed phases is estimated to be 111.2 million.
- ◆ Continuing to work through our Advance Knox initiative that looks for ways to make houses' affordable by updating our zoning regulations while still maintaining our hometown charm.



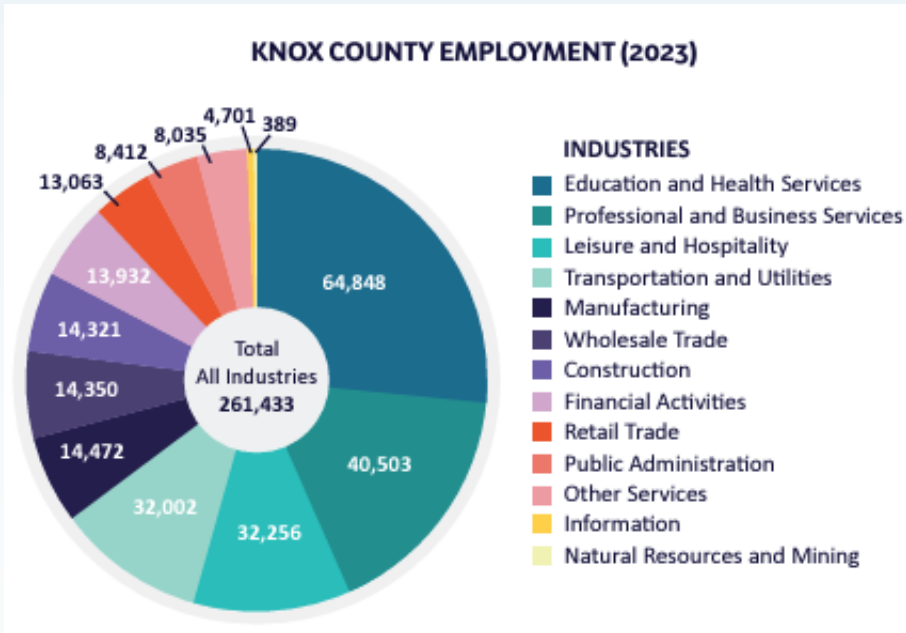
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ **NO TAX INCREASES**
- ◆ **HOSTED 6TH ANNUAL SCHOOL MANIA, A DRIVE-THRU EVENT TO PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO KNOX COUNTY STUDENTS**
- ◆ **OPENED THE SKILLED TRADES ACADEMY AND REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER (START), A MAJOR PRIORITY DESIGNED TO HELP US ATTRACT, TRAIN, AND RETAIN A STRONG WORKFORCE IN THE TRADES. THE CENTER, WHICH IS LOCATED ON CENTRAL AVENUE, COVERS A VARIETY OF TRADES DEPENDING ON DEMAND, FRAMING, MASONRY, ELECTRICAL, WELDING, AND MECHANICAL, JUST TO NAME A FEW.**
- ◆ **OPENED MCBEE FERRY PARK, A 3-ACRE SITE ALONG THE UPPER HOLSTON THAT FEATURES RARE RIVER ACCESS**
- ◆ **OPENED A MENTAL HEALTH COURT IN KNOX COUNTY TO IMPROVE SAFETY, CONNECT OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS TO THE HELP THEY NEED, AND REDUCE COURT COSTS AND RECIDIVISM**
- ◆ **RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS AS AN AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY, SIGNIFYING A COMMITMENT FROM LOCAL LEADERS TO WORK TOWARD MAKING THE AREA A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, FOCUSING ON FEATURES, LIKE WALKABLE STREETS, ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION, SUITABLE HOUSING OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**

EMPLOYMENT



The County is within the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is home to the U.S. Department of Energy and Covenant Health, which are major employers. The County's primary occupations are in educational services, health care, hospitality, and retail trade sectors. Industry sectors such as agriculture, utilities, and management of companies and enterprises comprise small portions of the Knox County Industry Structure. The largest employers by number of employees have remained relatively consistent through the years.



EARNINGS

Knox County (2023)
Weekly (all industries average).....\$1,266

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2022)

\$69,999	Knox County
\$67,801	Metro Area
\$74,755	U.S.

EMPLOYMENT (2024)

Labor Force

256,566	Knox County
449,383	Metro Area

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2024)

3.2%	Knox County
3.1%	Metro Area
3.0%	Tennessee
4.1%	U.S.

Note: Due to disclosure requirements, the sum of the individual category counts will not match the All industries total.

TOP 10 KNOX COUNTY EMPLOYERS

	EMPLOYER	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	PERCENTAGE OF KNOX CO WORK-FORCE
1	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OAK RIDGE	16,975	3.90%
2	COVENANT HEALTH	11,963	2.75%
3	THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE	11,197	2.58%
4	KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10,118	2.33%
5	WALMART STORES	6,614	1.52%
6	UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM	5,387	1.24%
7	CLAYTON HOMES	5,047	1.16%
8	DENSO MFG	5,000	1.15%
9	ROARK CAPITAL GROUP	4,618	1.06%
10	THE DOLLYWOOD COMPANY	4,500	1.03%

COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND

2024

REVENUE- GENERAL FUND

				23/24
Category	2022	2023	2024	VARIANCE
County Property Taxes	\$ 132,426,950	\$ 137,163,697	\$ 140,605,209	\$ 3,441,512
Local Option Sales Taxes	11,214,507	11,756,501	12,078,341	321,840
Business Taxes	13,635,096	15,755,440	16,553,839	798,399
Wheel Taxes	602,007	627,552	607,980	(19,572)
Other Local Taxes	1,819,730	2,117,563	2,063,758	(53,805)
Licenses & Permits	3,018,879	3,000,164	3,480,598	480,434
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	2,189,472	2,516,936	2,724,225	207,289
Charges for Current Services	8,916,204	9,594,349	9,869,769	275,420
Other Local Revenues	5,009,027	10,193,474	10,577,319	383,845
State of Tennessee	9,915,925	12,707,618	14,928,979	2,221,361
Federal Government	2,157,751	1,835,077	1,995,125	160,048
Other Governments & Citizen Groups	884,112	459,464	1,025,364	565,900
Increase in Equity Interest in Joint Venture	1,270,769	1,010,759	1,096,823	86,064
Total Revenues	\$ 193,060,429	\$ 208,738,594	\$ 217,607,329	\$ 8,868,735

Notes:

*Property taxes and business taxes continue to out perform projections. The County is improving financially as a whole. The County is experiencing a robust economy. The increase in the State of Tennessee is related to various state shared revenues including a \$1.5M increase from the state prison board.

EXPENDITURES- GENERAL FUND

				23/24
Category	2022	2023	2024	VARIANCE
Finance & Administration	\$ 33,360,541	\$ 33,156,329	\$ 36,176,302	\$ 3,019,973
Administration of Justice (Court System)	20,834,245	22,007,307	24,297,943	2,290,636
Public Safety	92,458,510	95,773,968	106,954,182	11,180,214
Public Health & Welfare	20,379,310	20,515,117	22,033,720	1,518,603
Social & Cultural Services	5,883,753	7,273,673	7,403,409	129,736
Agricultural & Natural Resources	487,814	491,522	555,225	63,703
Other General Government	24,400,349	22,554,039	23,454,394	900,355
Total Expenditures	\$ 197,804,522	\$ 201,771,955	\$ 220,875,175	\$ 19,103,220

Notes:

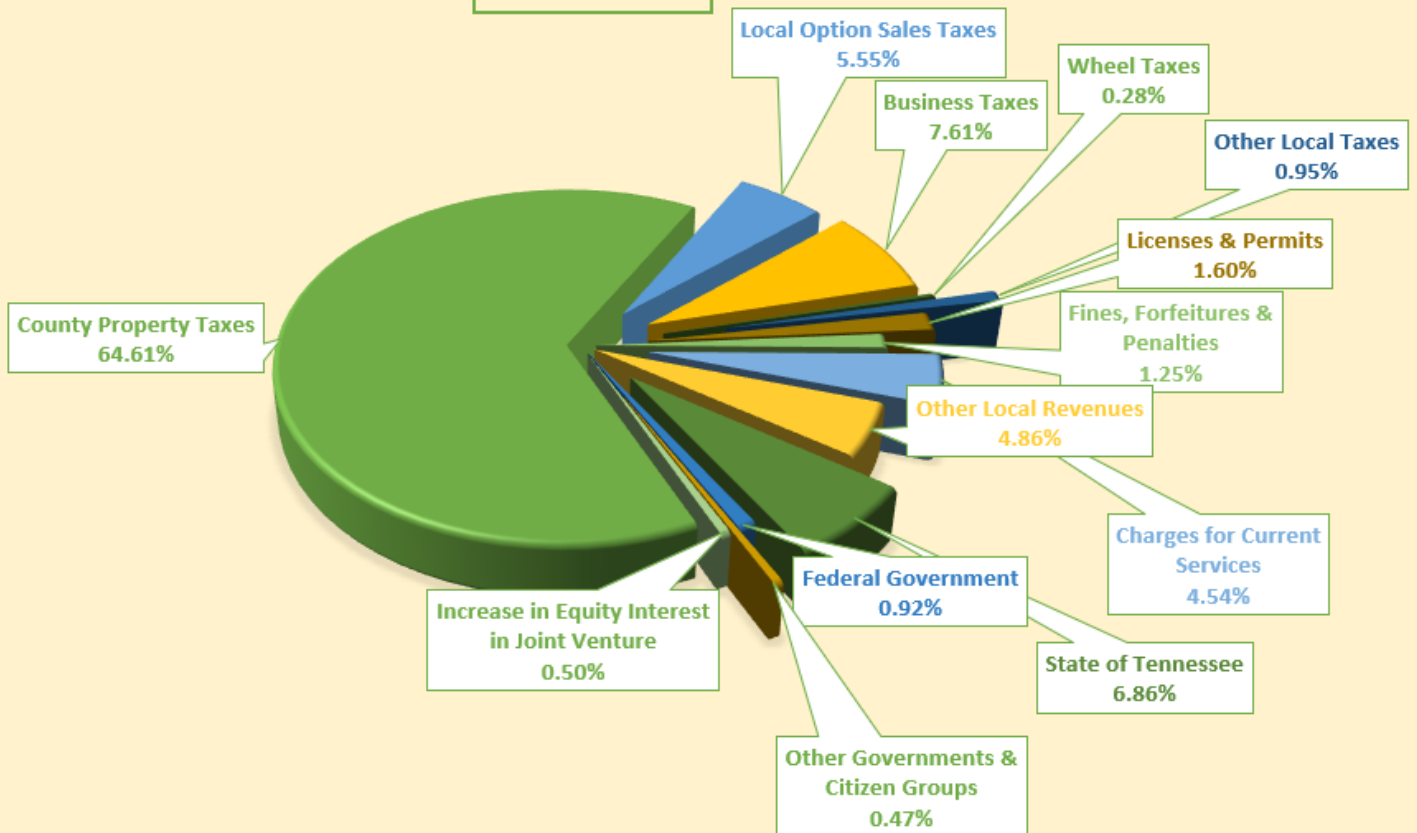
*The increase in Finance & Administration, Administration of Justice, Public Safety, and Public Health is mainly due to increased salaries and benefits.

COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

2024



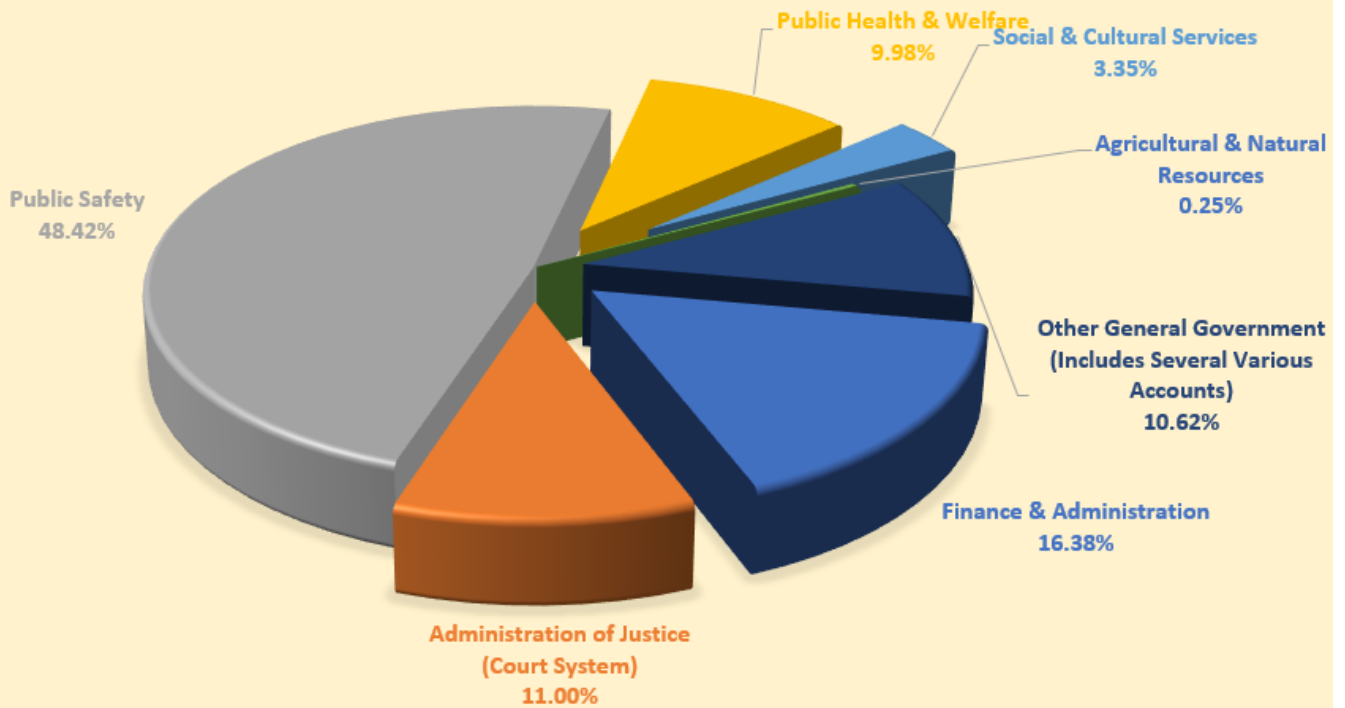
The General Fund accounts for resources traditionally associated with governments that are not required legally or by financial management to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund accounts for the normal recurring activities of the County (i.e., public safety, recreation, health and welfare, general government, etc.). These activities are funded principally by property taxes on individuals and businesses.

COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2024



SCHOOL'S GENERAL FUND

2024

REVENUE- GENERAL FUND

Category	23/24			
	2022	2023	2024	VARIANCE
Property Taxes	\$ 108,418,760	\$ 113,152,627	\$ 107,924,551	\$ (5,228,076)
Local Option Sales Taxes	215,237,167	231,296,010	239,437,493	8,141,483
Wheel Tax	1,808,993	1,885,756	912,721	(973,035)
Other Local Taxes	709,767	819,734	797,157	(22,577)
Licenses & Permits	37,427	43,524	27,312	(16,212)
Charges for Current Services	413,939	469,485	450,563	(18,922)
Other Local Revenues	7,335,126	6,376,743	7,956,031	1,579,288
State of Tennessee	247,760,383	256,036,805	323,132,746	67,095,941
Federal Government	678,572	725,050	599,346	(125,704)
Other Governments & Citizen Groups	5,318	19,069	15,037	(4,032)
Interest Earned	211,830	4,111,567	6,965,387	2,853,820
Payments from Primary Government	1,932,000	-	-	-
Total Revenues	\$ 584,549,282	\$ 614,936,370	\$ 688,218,344	\$ 73,281,974

Note: School's revenues have increased over the last three years through a continued robust economy. The decrease in property taxes is due to shifting 4 cents on the tax rate over to the debt service fund. Local sales tax continues to out perform projections. Interest earned also increased due to favorable rates on investments. The increase from the State is related to a new funding model to support the schools.

EXPENDITURES- GENERAL FUND

Category	23/24			
	2022	2023	2024	VARIANCE
Personal Services	\$ 358,145,785	\$ 380,369,592	\$ 412,503,287	\$ 32,133,695
Employee Benefits	98,233,273	102,406,555	108,517,754	6,111,199
Contracted Services	34,040,136	38,166,001	39,336,472	1,170,471
Supplies & Materials	22,326,541	28,064,443	38,243,574	10,179,131
Other Charges	19,862,443	14,594,663	16,370,750	1,776,087
Capital Outlay	1,309,594	1,023,614	1,601,084	577,470
Payments to Primary Government	14,931,933	18,186,683	9,071,724	(9,114,959)
Total Expenditures	\$ 548,849,705	\$ 582,811,551	\$ 625,644,645	\$ 42,833,094

Note:

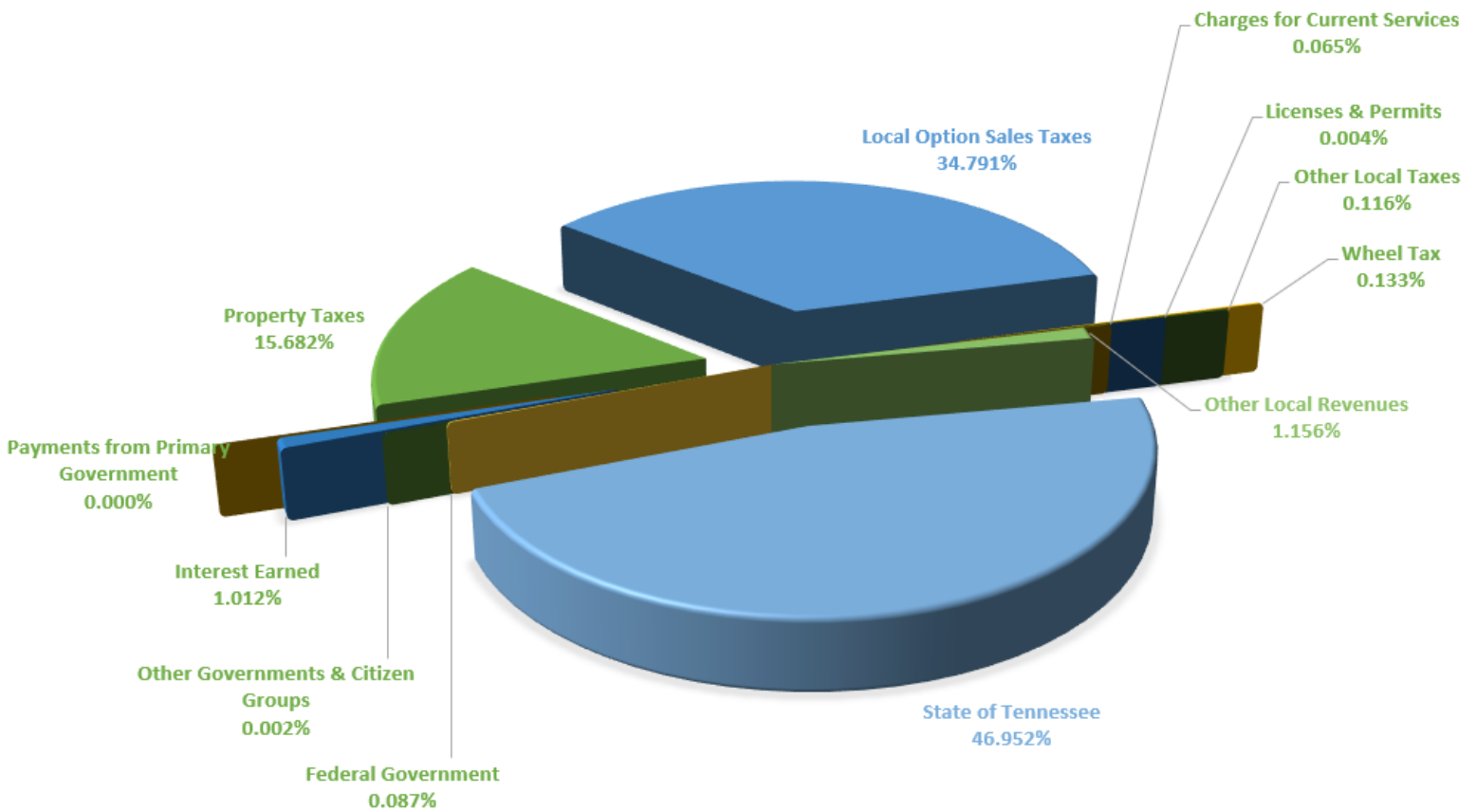
Expenditures within the School's General Fund is made up of thousands of accounts and can fluctuate greatly from year to year. The largest increase is due to salaries and benefits for teachers and support staff. The decrease in Payments to Primary Government is related to reallocating the tax rate mentioned above.

SCHOOL'S GENERAL FUND



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

2024

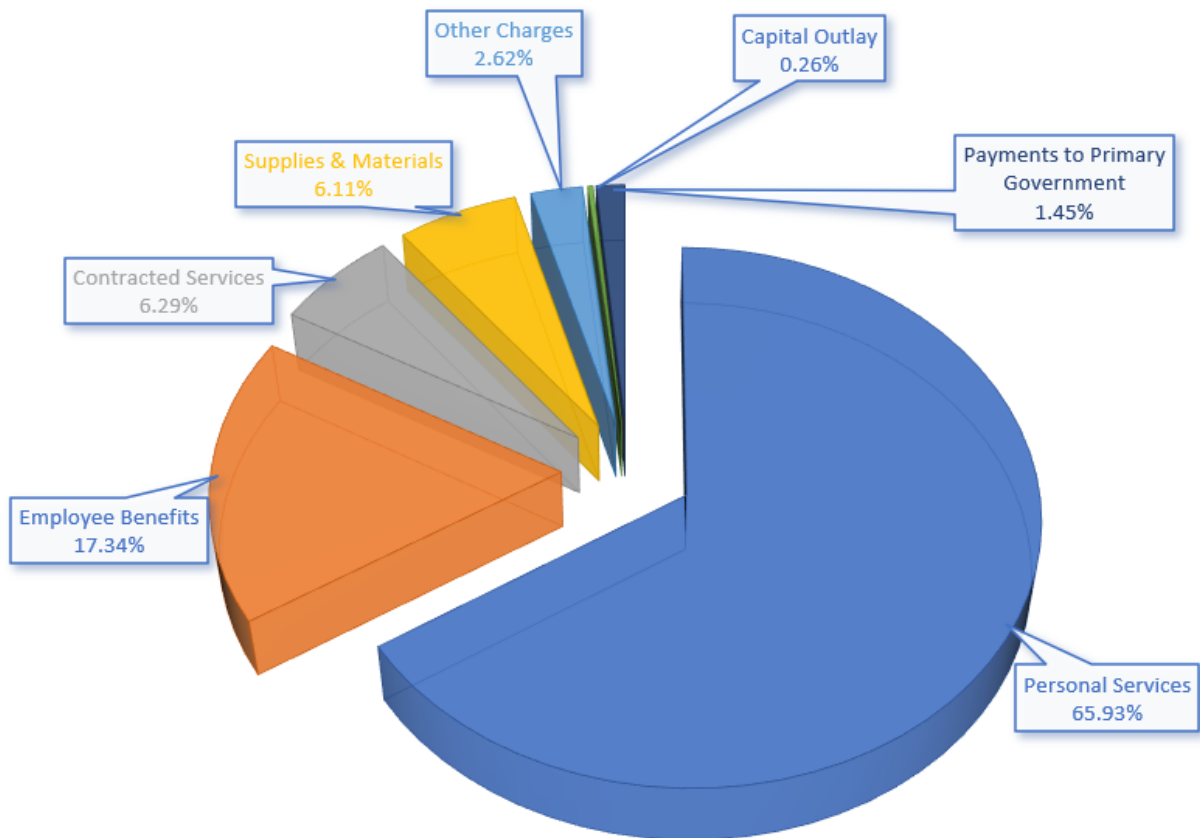


General Purpose School Fund: This fund is used to account for general operations of the Board of Education. Major funding is provided through local tax levies and state education funds.

SCHOOL'S GENERAL FUND

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2024

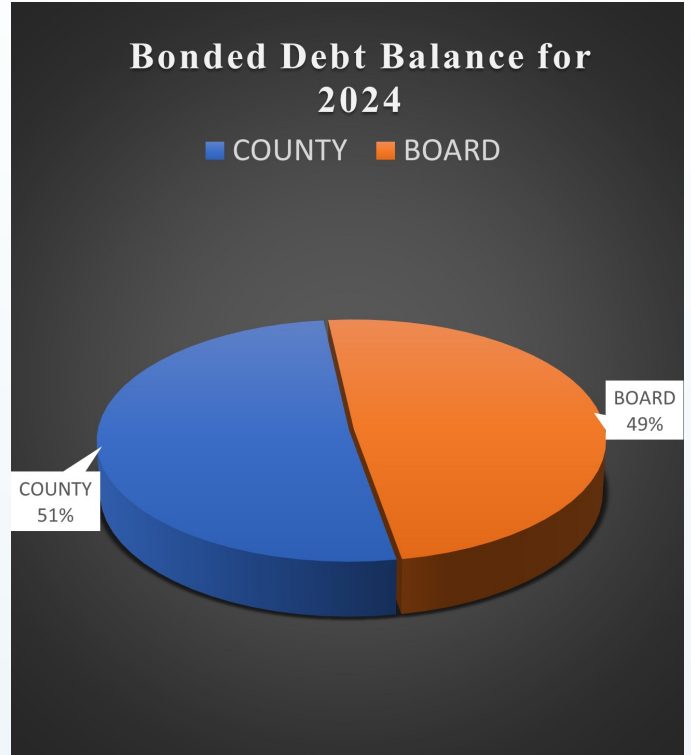
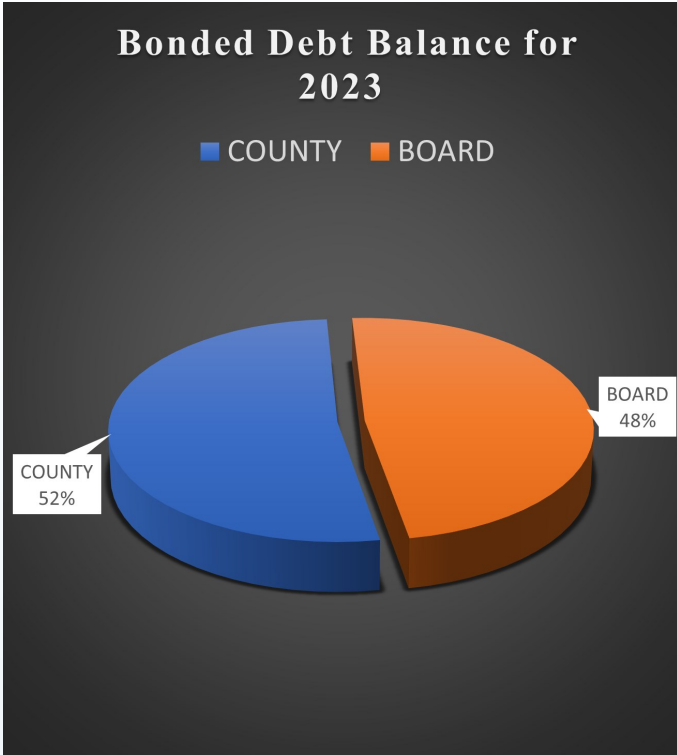


DEBT

2024



Knox County’s Total Bonded Debt Increased by \$49,280,719 or 6.8 % During the Current Fiscal Year. This was due to the Principal Bond Payments were less than the Debt Issuances as shown in the table below.



Comparing the Two Charts : During the Current Year The Bond Debt for the Board has an increase of 8.9% from last year and The Bond Debt for the County has an increase of 4.8% from the prior Year.

BONDED DEBT BALANCE OF 2023	COUNTY	BOARD	TOTAL
Beginning Balance	\$ 372,492,019	\$ 329,380,938	\$ 701,872,957
Principal Paid	(24,480,115)	(20,004,166)	(44,484,281)
Proceeds from Debt Issuances	29,878,000	40,122,000	70,000,000
Ending Balance- Bonds	\$ 377,889,904	\$ 349,498,772	\$ 727,388,676

BONDED DEBT BALANCE OF 2024	COUNTY	BOARD	TOTAL
Beginning Balance	\$ 377,889,904	\$ 349,498,772	\$ 727,388,676
Principal Paid	(25,666,933)	(20,302,348)	(45,969,281)
Proceeds from Debt Issuances	43,900,000	51,350,000	95,250,000
Ending Balance- Bonds	\$ 396,122,971	\$ 380,546,424	\$ 776,669,395

PROPERTY TAX

2024



Knox's County greatest revenue stream is from property taxes. The amount of property tax collected is established by the Property Assessor, followed by the County Commission approval based on the needs of the budget. The tax rate for 2024 was \$1.554 for every \$100 of assessed value. For every property tax dollar collected, 65 cents was used to support Knox County's general fund, 55 cents was allocated to the general-purpose school fund and 36 cents toward the debt service fund.

	Amount	% Total Levy
General Fund	\$ 0.6524	42%
General Purpose School Fund	\$ 0.5464	35%
Debt Service Fund	\$ 0.3552	23%
Total Tax Levy	\$ 1.5540	100%



42%
General Fund



35%
General Purpose School Fund



23%
Debt Services Fund



KNOX COUNTY
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
WWW.KNOXCOUNTY.ORG