

A MESSAGE FROM THE KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS

- Scott Noble, King County Assessor

I am proud to report that 1993 was an outstanding year. We have strengthened the department, improved our performance, and made substantial progress toward our ultimate goal of providing outstanding service to our fellow citizens.

We enter 1994 with confidence, and are honored to host the 60th annual conference of the International Association of Assessing Officers in Seattle this coming October.

The Department of Assessments had many "firsts" this past year:

- Valuation standards were implemented.
- The ongoing process of creating a positive work environment was begun.
- A major technology plan was approved and funded.
- A new, eminently qualified, professional management team was brought aboard.
- A comprehensive policy manual of standards and legal requirements was produced and distributed to staff.
- The appeals process was streamlined.
- Training and education programs were initiated.
- The department became a key player in the new King County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project.

These changes are constructive, workable, and necessary, as we must restore confidence in the fairness of the property tax system. Reformed methods and management of property valuation will mean better assessments. We are committed in 1994 to continuing progress by integrating technology resources with a talented workforce.

Our advances are due to the efforts of the employees of the Department of Assessments and I thank them for their support and dedication. I also wish to thank others for their support and assistance, including the King County executive administration and especially the King County Council.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of King County for allowing me the challenging and rewarding opportunity to lead the Department of Assessments in its mission of public service.

Sincerely,

