

What's happening in the Auditor's Office?

Effective
January 1, 2024,
most recorded
documents &
maps to increase
\$100.00 due to
Second
Substitute House
Bill 1474



Upcoming \$100 fee increase for most recorded documents and maps effective January 1, 2024

Most documents will increase by \$100 due to the recent passage of HB 1474; creating the covenant homeownership account & program to address the history of housing discrimination due to racially restrictive real estate covenants in Washington State.

What does this mean for you?

- Fees for most documents will start at \$303.50
- Documents already exempt from housing surcharges will not be subject to this increase

"A new section is added to chapter RCW 36.22 to read as follows:(1) Beginning January 1, 2024, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the county auditor must collect a covenant homeownership program assessment of \$100 for each document recorded, which is in addition to any other charge, surcharge, or assessment allowed by law. The county auditor may retain up to one percent of the moneys for collection of the assessment and must remit the remainder of the moneys to the state treasurer to be deposited in the covenant homeownership account created in section 4 of this act. (2) The assessment imposed in this section does not apply to: (a) Assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust; (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death; (c) any recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or additional assessments under state law; (d) marriage licenses issued by the county auditor; (e) documents recording a name change order under RCW 4.24.130; or (f) documents recording a federal, state, county, city, or water-sewer district, or wage lien or satisfaction of lien."

Questions? Call our office (360) 778-5100 option 2 or go to our website at <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/227/Recording>