

COMMUNITY PROFILE

About Washoe County

Washoe County is a growing area located along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in western Nevada. The county covers an area of 6,600 square miles in the northwest section of the state, bordering California and Oregon, and has a population of 373,233. The county seat is the City of Reno, the second largest city in Nevada. Other communities in Washoe County are Sparks and Incline Village, at Lake Tahoe. Recreational activities abound, including skiing, fishing, lakes and hiking, all within minutes of the metropolitan area. Citizens enjoy cultural events, quality public schools and excellent public services. The economy is growing, housing is plentiful and the cost of living is moderate. Washoe County's climate is mild, with low humidity and rainfall, and the residents enjoy the full range of all four seasons.

The Washoe County organization employs nearly 2,850 people. The county fulfills major roles, including services provided as an administrative arm-of-the-state, a regional and community service provider, as well as administrative and support service functions. A brief review of these roles includes the following:

State-Mandated Services

- Property appraisal and assessment (Assessor's Office)
- Tax collection (Treasurer's Office)
- Record, index and archive real estate transactions and marriages (Recorder's Office)
- Issue marriage licenses; take public meeting minutes; maintain court records (County Clerk)
- Voter registration and elections (Registrar of Voters)
- Prosecution of criminals (District Attorney)
- Death Investigation (Coroner)
- Preside over all civil, criminal and probate cases and domestic, family and juvenile matters (District and Justice Courts)
- Intervention, guidance and control programs for children under 18 (Juvenile Services)
- Criminal defense for the needy (Public Defender)

- Communicable disease control and environmental health services (District Health)
- Temporary financial assistance, health care assistance, indigent burials (Social Services)
- Child protection and placement (Child Protective Services Division, Social Services Dept.)
- Safeguard and protect assets of deceased citizens (Public Administrator)

Regional Services

- Animal Services
- Jail
- Libraries
- Law Library
- Regional Parks
- Senior Services
- Forensic Services
- Water, sanitary sewer, flood control
- Emergency Management
- Toxicology Services

Community Services

- Sheriff- patrol and criminal investigation
- Fire Protection
- Community Parks and Recreation programs
- Roads (snow removal, street repair)
- Business Licensing
- Land use planning, building permits, building safety inspection, engineering

Administrative & Internal Services

- County Manager's Office
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Community Relations
- Legislative activities
- Comptroller
- Risk Management
- Information Technology
- Purchasing
- General Services
- Collections

VISION, VALUES AND PRIORITIES

Washoe County Vision

Washoe County is home to Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful places on earth; to the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains; to the life-giving Truckee River; to vast open ranges and blue sky; to pastoral ranches and to the friendly, vibrant cities of Reno and Sparks.

Our vision is that Washoe County will remain a compelling place in which to live, work, recreate, visit, and invest through our:

- Excellent regional services
- Open, informed, and collaborative decision-making
- Valued staff that is accessible and accountable
- Quality, sustainable facilities and infrastructure
- Responsible growth management and
- Preservation of our magnificent natural landscape

Washoe County Value Statement

We value...

COMMUNITY: We take pride in our region, our neighborhoods, and our people, and we are dedicated to building a healthy, prosperous region with a strong sense of community.

QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE: Quality service to all is the fundamental reason that Washoe County exists.

TEAMWORK: We believe in the value of teamwork and a spirit of cooperative effort within our organization and our community.

PEOPLE: We strive to treat all people with equity, dignity, respect, and fairness. We believe that our employees are our most valuable resource. Each employee's contribution is essential to our successes.

COMMUNICATION: We believe in simplicity, accuracy, clarity, and timeliness in

communications with the public and each other. We encourage the open exchange of ideas and information among employees and members of our community.

INTEGRITY: We are dedicated to high ethical and moral standards and uncompromising honesty in our dealings with the public and each other.

PROFESSIONALISM: We believe in high professional standards and attitudes that dictate an objective analysis of issues, free of our personal biases.

PROGRESSIVE THOUGHT: We value innovation and creativity, and support an orientation for change and intelligent decision making at all levels of the organization.

Washoe County Strategic Priorities

Increase the Safety and Security of Our Region

- Implement the Truckee River Flood Control Project
- Support Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Support clean and safe Neighborhoods

Preserve Our Quality of Live

- Improve growth management, planning and land use through regional collaboration
- Address Traffic congestion and transportation system improvements
- Effectively plan and manage use of our natural assets including water, air and open space

Regional Collaboration

- Pursue shared services that improve cost-effectiveness
- Continue to improve communication and cooperation among regional partners

Promote Quality Economic Development

- Encourage renewable energy projects
- Support healthy, vibrant downtowns
- Support efforts to expand tourism, capitalizing on our unique natural setting

Government Efficiency and Financial Stability

- Improve County government accessibility and efficiency through technology
- Simplify and streamline County government by focusing on core services
- Insure that all services reflect best practices through performance measurement and benchmarking

Encourage Citizen Participation

- Provide citizen-focused, excellent public service
- Expand opportunities for communication with citizens through increased town hall meetings, e-government, e-mail, and other means
- Enhance efforts to serve growing populations of seniors, minority groups and families at risk

Workforce Development

- Effectively plan for and manage growing County workforce challenges including succession planning, retention of talent, employee morale, and education
- Collaborate to enhance the quality and availability of our regional workforce