
Fiscal Policies

The City of Bend has an important responsibility to its citizens to carefully account for public funds, manage municipal finances wisely, and plan adequate funding of services and facilities desired and needed by the public.

The goals of Bend's fiscal policies are as follows:

- To enhance City Council's policy-making ability by providing accurate information on program and operating costs.
- To assist sound management of City government by providing accurate and timely information on current and anticipated financial conditions.
- To provide sound principles to guide important decisions of the Council and management which have significant fiscal impact.
- To employ revenue policies which prevent undue or unbalanced reliance on any one source, distribute the cost of municipal services fairly and provide adequate funds to operate desired programs.
- To provide and maintain essential public facilities, utilities, and capital equipment.
- To protect and enhance the City's credit rating.
- To insure that all surplus cash is prudently invested in accordance with the investment policy adopted by the Council to protect City funds and realize a reasonable rate of return.

Revenue Policy

- A diversified and stable revenue system will be maintained to shelter the government from short-run fluctuations in any one revenue source.
- One-time revenues will be used only for one-time expenditures. The City will avoid using temporary revenues to fund mainstream services.
- All revenue forecasts shall be conservative.
- Regular reports comparing actual to budgeted revenues will be prepared by the Finance Department and presented to the City Manager.
- All City funds shall be safely invested to provide a sufficient level of liquidity to meet cash flow needs and to provide the maximum yield possible in that order. One hundred percent of all idle cash will be continuously invested.
- The City will maximize utilization of user charges in lieu of property taxes for services that can be individually identified and where the costs are directly related to the level of service. User fees will be reviewed each year to ensure that related costs are recovered in accordance with City Council policy.