

A Guide to JLARC TAX PREFERENCE REVIEWS



JULY 2021

JLARC: THE LEGISLATURE'S AUDITOR

We give the Legislature accurate and unbiased answers to their questions

Reports are prepared independently by nonpartisan staff, in accordance with professional audit standards.

The Citizen Commission, composed of five citizens appointed by each caucus and the Governor, determines which preferences will be reviewed each year.

JLARC STAFF'S APPROACH TO THE TAX PREFERENCE REVIEWS

Statute directs JLARC staff to address the following key areas:



Public policy objectives

Is there documented purpose or intent for the preference? What evidence exists to show the preference has achieved the goals?



Beneficiaries

What entities are affected directly and indirectly by the preference? What are the estimated beneficiary savings?



Revenue and economic impacts

What are the impacts of the tax preference, including to the taxpayers and to the government?



Other states

Do other states have a similar tax preference?



Recommendations

The Legislative Auditor is required to recommend future legislative action for the preference, such as continue, clarify the objective, or allow to expire.

We have reviewed tax preferences since 2007

JLARC has reviewed 310 tax preferences, nearly half of all the state's tax preferences. Reviews cover many policy areas, including agriculture, economic development, and aerospace.

TAX PREFERENCE REVIEWS FOLLOW STANDARD PROCESS

MAY 2021

The Citizen Commission identifies which preferences to review in the following year.

JULY 2022

JLARC staff present preliminary findings to the JLARC committee.

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2022

The Citizen Commission considers the report, hears public testimony, and adds comments.

DECEMBER 2022

JLARC staff present the final report to the JLARC committee.

EARLY 2023

JLARC staff present the final report to the legislative fiscal committees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Visit the JLARC website at www.jlarc.leg.wa.gov
OR visit the Citizen Commission site at www.citizentaxpref.wa.gov

CONTACT

Keenan Konopaski, Legislative Auditor



360-786-5187



keenan.konopaski@leg.wa.gov