

ISSUES BRIEF

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Poll shows support for airport growth

More than 80% of those responding to a City of Yakima poll strongly support expansion of Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field (YKM).

The poll was open Dec. 31, 2022 to Jan. 30, 2023, receiving 1,404 responses:

- 1,163 (83%) "Strongly support" expanding YKM
- 69 (5%) "Somewhat support"
- 20 (1%) "Neither support nor oppose"
- 47 (3%) "Somewhat oppose"
- 105 (7%) "Strongly oppose"

"The City of Yakima appreciates the many, many people who took the time to participate in this poll," said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. "We are grateful for the more than 1,000 written comments the community provided. These will be very helpful going forward."



Thank you!

Over 1,400 people participated in our Yakima Airport expansion poll!

83% strongly supported expansion!

There were 1,137 comments in response to the poll question, "What concerns, if any, do you have about this proposed expansion of the Yakima airport?" Nearly half had no concerns. The top five responses were:

- 535 had no concerns, with many suggesting expansion would be good for the local economy
- 236 replied traffic and congestion
- 162 replied noise
- 143 replied sufficient expansion
- 94 replied airport connectivity

The state plans to build a new regional airport in the next decade.

On January 3rd the Yakima City Council approved a [letter](#) to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) asking for YKM to be considered as the new preferred airport location.

"YKM has a historic partnership with SeaTac Airport, including serving as the emergency back-up site for aircraft unable to land at SeaTac," the City Council's letter to WSDOT and the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee (CACC) stated.

"Yakima provides an excellent option because of its central location with easy transportation access to the west and east sides of the state," the letter said.



Jobless rate hits record low

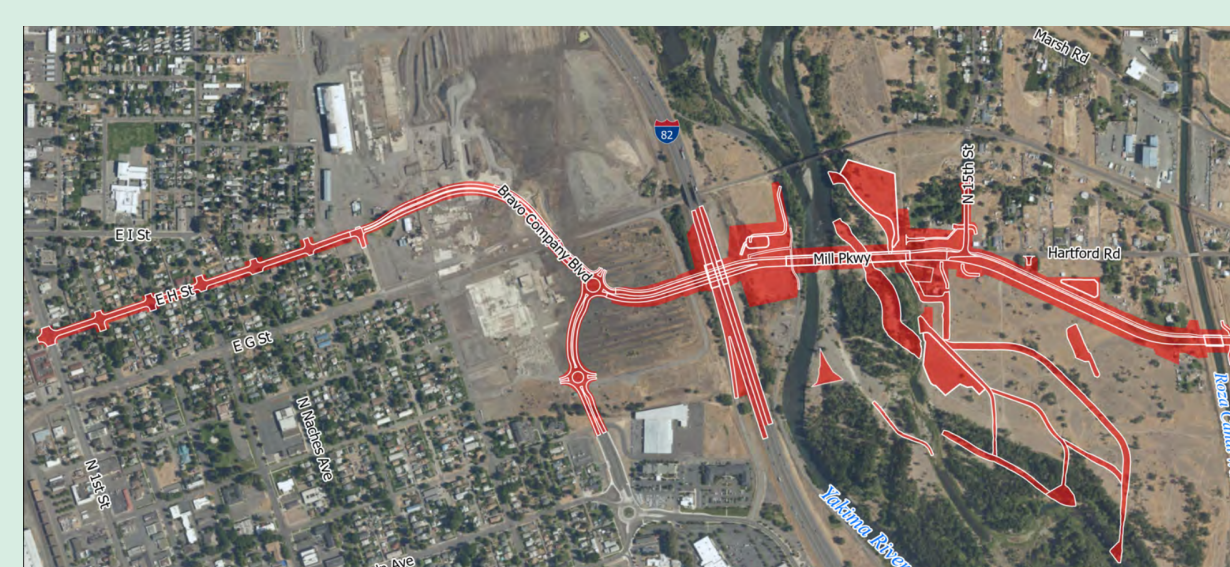
The City of Yakima's average annual unemployment rate for 2022 was 5.4%. That represents the city's lowest ever yearly jobless rate.

The previous record-low annual unemployment rate was 5.6% set in 2018.

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Briefly

City offers 24/7 bill pay kiosk

Can't make it to City Hall during business hours?

City of Yakima utility, sewer and refuse customers can use a bill payment kiosk 24/7 outside City Hall, 129 N. 2nd St.

Have your account number handy to look up bill info. The kiosk accepts cash, debit/credit cards & personal checks.

Holiday will not impact Refuse, Lions Pool

Yakima City Hall and facilities will close Monday, Feb. 20th, for Presidents Day. In addition, Yakima Transit will not provide bus service.

However, City of Yakima garbage pick-up service will continue as scheduled Feb. 20th. There will be no collection delays.

Lions Pool will be open to the public on Presidents Day.

YFD promoting burn awareness

Feb. 5-11 is National Burn Awareness Week.

During that week Yakima Fire Department will share related safety messages on Facebook, @YakimaFireDepartment and on Twitter, @YakimaCityFire

Women's Shelter Toiletry Drive
Drive will be held:
January 3rd, 2023—March 31st, 2023

Items Needed:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Dry Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Gloves/Hats/Scarves
- Kids Gloves/Hats/Scarves
- Disposable Plates/Silverware
- Napkins
- Bath Towels
- Washcloths
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Blankets
- Bed Sheets
- Pillows

Please bring new, unopened donations to the Harman Center Front Desk.
All donations will be given to the YWCA.
Harman Center 101 N 65th Yakima 98908

Harman Center is collecting new, unopened donations for YWCA Women's Shelter. Please drop donations at the front desk. Click poster above to see items needed.

WINDOWS ALIVE! IN DOWNTOWN YAKIMA

Call to Artists

Deadline: Friday, March 3rd



The Yakima Arts Commission seeks applications for the 2023 Downtown Yakima Windows Alive! project.

The deadline to submit an application is 5 pm on Friday, March 3rd.

Windows Alive! enables talented artists and groups of artists to display their works and at the same time help invigorate empty downtown storefront windows.

Artists residing in Central Washington are invited to submit entries.

Following the selection process by the Yakima Arts Commission, a total of six projects will be selected for the 2023 display.

Artists or groups chosen to show their work will be paid a \$250 stipend.

An application form and additional information concerning entry requirements are available at www.windowalive.com. Questions about the project can also be sent to yakimawindows@gmail.com

Windows Alive! displays are located on the north side of Yakima Avenue between Hotel Maison and 3rd Street.

Windows Alive! was created in 2013 by the Yakima Arts Commission, which serves as an advisory board to the Yakima City Council.

The project, now in its 10th year, is part of an ongoing effort to bring public art to downtown Yakima.

Yakima Municipal Court offers amnesty program

The City of Yakima Municipal Court is among courts in the area participating in an amnesty program during the month of February aimed at clearing delinquent accounts.

Yakima County District Court (Includes Union Gap, Moxee, Mabton & Grandview Municipal Courts) announced the month-long amnesty program. Other local courts participating include Selah Municipal Court and Zillah Municipal Court.

Though the program may differ slightly for each court, the Amnesty Program is designed to help those with outstanding accounts in collections.

The participating courts and their collection agencies have agreed to waive all interest and may reduce a significant portion of collection costs on accounts that are in collection, if the principle balance is paid in full.

This opportunity is available to help pay off fines in collection. By doing so, you can avoid future collection fees and legal actions such as garnishment or property liens.

This may also eliminate barriers towards obtaining or reinstating your driver's license.

NOTE: Garnishment and bankruptcy cases do not qualify for the Amnesty Program.

The participating courts are offering the program for the month of February ONLY. You may contact the collection agency directly, if you are unsure of the fine balances or what collection agency has your account, you may call the court for additional information.

Call Yakima Municipal Court at 509-575-3050 for more about the City's participation in this program.

City Council action summary - Jan. 2023

Yakima City Council action during its regular meetings in January included:

- Administering oath of office to Municipal Court Judge Aryn Masters
- Receiving Yakima Police Department ATV/UTV update
- Retirement recognition of Judge Susan Woodward and Municipal Court Services Manager Linda Hagert
- Update on cost and timing of Annexation Study
- Receiving update from Yakima School Supt. Trevor Greene
- Appointing Mayor Janice Deccio, Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund and Councilmember Danny Herrera to the Council Nominating Committee
- Authorizing an agreement with NAC Architecture for Aquatic Pool Design Services
- Approving letter requesting study of Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field as potential site for west side airport

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/agendas).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/live-stream).



East-West Corridor plans continue

The East-West Corridor Project was the focus of an open house hosted by Yakima County and the City of Yakima on Jan. 23rd.

The purpose is to reduce congestion and connect the growing Terrace Heights area to the City of Yakima:

- Provide an alternative Yakima River crossing for east-west travel between the City of Yakima and Terrace Heights.
- Increase mobility by decreasing travel delay and relieving traffic congestion at the I-82/Yakima Ave Interchange and on Terrace Heights Drive and Yakima Ave.
- Construct the local road corridor which would allow for the consideration of construction of the recommended alternative for an interchange with I-82 identified in the WSDOT I-82/Yakima Avenue/Terrace Heights Drive.

- Provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities including a connection to the Yakima Greenway Trail.
- Serve the existing approved transportation and land use planning along the roadway corridor as documented in the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) 2020-2045 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan.

Although this is a cooperative project, Yakima County is the lead agency in receiving comments and organizing the documentation for the East-West Corridor Project.

For more information about the East-West Corridor Project visit <http://cityofyakima-terraceheights.org/>

The City of Yakima has also posted the project website and map on its website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

follow the City of Yakima on social media:



watch City meetings any time, on demand:



City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
509-576-6614
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov.

City Directory

Airport:	575-6149
Animal Control:	575-6038
City Clerk:	575-6000
City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
Municipal Court:	575-3050
Parks:	575-6020
Planning:	575-6183
* Police:	575-6200
Purchasing	575.6093
Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

* **NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.**