

## **I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

### **D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)**

#### **Compensated Absences (Continued)**

County employees earn annual leave up to a maximum of 20 days per year based on months of service. Fulltime regular employees earn 10 days of sick leave per year. There is no liability for unpaid accumulated sick leave since the County does not have a policy to pay any amounts when employees separate from service with the County. Employees who have been employed for a year or more are eligible to be paid for all unused annual leave at their regular rate of pay upon termination of employment. Vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignation and retirements.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

#### **Property Taxes**

Property subject to taxation is real property and certain personal property situated in the County. Certain properties of religious, educational and charitable organizations are exempt from taxation. In addition, other special exemptions are allowed by the Commissioners' Court of the County.

The County's ad valorem taxes are levied and become a legal enforceable claim, on October 1 on 100% of assessed valuation at a rate of \$.3864 (\$.3080 for the maintenance and operations and \$.0784 for interest and sinking fund) per \$100 valuation as of the preceding January 1. These taxes are due and payable from October 1 of the year in which levied until January 31 of the following year without interest or penalty. Taxes paid after February 1 of each year are subject to interest and penalty charges.

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