

Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

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Five Elected State Officials Come From County Government

Two more elected county officials became state officials in this year's General Election. Pierce County Executive Doug Sutherland and Thurston County Auditor Sam Reed were successful in their bids for Commissioner of Public Lands and Secretary of State, respectively. They join other former county officials Governor Gary Locke (former

King County Executive), State Treasurer Mike Murphy (former Thurston County Treasurer), and State Auditor Brian Sonntag (former Pierce County Clerk and Auditor). That now makes five of the nine elected state office-holders who have come from county government backgrounds!

Counties and Forest Service to Begin Implementation of HR 2389

HR 2389, the Forests and Schools Coalition bill passed by Congress earlier this fall requires counties to take action and to work with the Forest Service on implementation. Each county with federal land (USFS or BLM) must begin making decisions on how to establish the required Resource Advisory Committees and which payment option it will choose.

WSAC staff and Timber County leadership have scheduled two meetings with Forest Service staff for a briefing on the options and an opportunity to make preliminary decisions

on the structure of Resource Advisory Committees. The meeting for Western Washington counties will take place at the Olympic National Forest Headquarters in Olympia at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday December 20. The meeting for Eastern Washington counties will take place in the Auditorium at the Kittitas County Courthouse at 11:00 a.m., Thursday December 21.

Briefing materials and a meeting notice are being sent to the Board, County Executive and County Council of each affected county. For more information, call Paul Parker at

More Spillover from Dam Resolution: Eastern Washington Invites Seattle City Council to Begin a Dialogue

WSAC has received a copy of a November 27, 2000 letter from Seattle Mayor Paul Schell to all cities and counties in Eastern Washington reiterating that he did not support the Snake River Dam resolution passed by the Seattle City Council and asking that all parties develop "a strategy for

meeting our common goals."

Mayor Schell writes that he believes, given "the continuing strong reaction from around the state ... the City Council today would agree that the resolution was not the best means for discussing what is a volatile

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More Spillover...

(Continued from page 1)

and complex issue." He notes that a broad coalition of Eastern Washington organizations has invited Seattle City Councilmembers to visit with Eastern

Washington communities and that several councilmembers have agreed to "begin an open dialogue between Eastern Washington and the City of Seattle."

The mayor also asked that any specific ideas or suggestions on how the

City of Seattle can collaborate and pursue shared interests with Eastern Washington be forwarded to him or to Clifford Traisman, Seattle's Director of Intergovernmental Relations at 206-684-8260.

Boards & Commission Openings

Forensics Council

A position is available for a county commissioner or councilmember to serve on the state Forensic Investigations Council.

The position, nominated by WSAC and appointed by the governor, will complete the remaining year of a term begun by Skamania County Commissioner Ed McLarney. The appointee will

be eligible for re-appointment to a full four-year term.

Interested commissioners and councilmembers should contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at 360-753-1886 or sbyrd@wacounties.org. WSAC needs to present the governor with two nominees as soon as possible.

The Forensic Investigations Council, in consultation with the State Patrol, oversees and establishes policies for the bureau of forensic laboratory services and helps prepare the bureau's budget. The Council may study the death investigation system in Washington and report findings to the Legislature. In conjunction with the University of Washington School of Medicine, the council oversees the state forensic pathology fellowship program.

The Council generally meets

monthly on the fourth Friday, in Olympia. Travel expenses are reimbursed.

More information about the Council, its duties and powers is available at RCW 43.103.020 - .090.

Shorelines Hearing Board

WSAC is seeking a county representative to assist in hearing cases before the Shorelines Hearings Board. The Shorelines Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body established within the environmental hearings office. Three of the members are required to be members of the Pollution Control Hearings Board and one of the members is required to be the Public Lands Commissioner or a designee from that office. Members of the Board receive travel and subsistence expenses as provided by law. Anyone interested or who would like more information should contact Jackie White of the WSAC staff.

The Courthouse Journal

The Courthouse Journal is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131.

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Submit Your Innovative Programs to NACo's 32nd Annual Achievement Award Program

Applications for the National Association of Counties' 2001 Achievement Award Program are now available. Begun in 1970, the annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs.

In 2000, 124 counties from 29 states were recognized by NACo for developing and implementing responsible responsive and effective county government programs. The winning Achievement Award programs constitute a vast source of information which provides counties with the ability to share their positive and effective programs with other counties nationwide. Last year NACo also awarded 15 Best of Category awards for the most outstanding programs in thirteen categories.

County governments, as well as State Associations of Counties, may submit entries for consideration in any of

the following categories: arts and historic preservation; children and youth; civic education and public information; community/economic development; county administration and management; court administration and management; criminal justice and public safety; emergency management and response; employment and training; environmental protection and energy; fiscal management; health; human services; information technology; libraries; parks and recreation; personnel management, employee training and employee benefits; planning; risk management; transportation; and volunteers.

There are several ways to obtain a 2001 application. You may download the application from NACo's homepage (www.naco.org), call Shawn Hills at 202-661-8834 or fax your request to 202-737-0480. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, February 2, 2001.

Celebrations

Please join us to celebrate the retirement of **Karl D. McKenzie**,
Pend Oreille County Commissioner

Reception to be held Monday,
December 18, 2000
2:30—4:30 PM
Commissioners' Meeting Room
625 W. Fourth Street
Newport, WA

Money Tree Available

Please RSVP (509) 447-4119

On Tuesday, December 19, 2000
Mason County will host an open
house for

Commissioner John Bolender
and
Commissioner Cynthia Olsen

Open House to be held in the
Commission chambers
411 North 5th Street
Shelton, WA

3 - 5 PM

Retirement Celebration for
Mason County Treasurer
Dorene Rae

Friday, January 5, 2001
3 - 6 PM
Shelton Civic Center

Honoring 39 years of service to
Mason County citizens in the
Treasurer's Office
(23 as elected treasurer)

News In Brief

Another Hit for WACO and the Risk Pool

WACO and the Washington Counties Risk Pool scored another "hit" in a series of employment seminars recently. 79 participants from 16 counties attended the two one-day offerings of *Avoiding Employment Liability* in Olympia and Wenatchee.

Oregon Attorney Kathy Peck of Williams Zografos and Peck in Lake Oswego kept the sessions "fast-paced, easy to understand," and "did an excellent job of presenting a difficult and confusing subject" as she led the trek through the legal jungle of employment law. As the attendees commented, "the speaker was engaging, knowledgeable and energetic" and "effectively brought major issues down to specific real-life examples."

This is the third year WACO and

the Risk Pool have shared resources to bring much-needed employment topics to the counties. The sessions have proved enormously popular and are expected to continue in 2001.

New Fax Number for Grant County Treasurer's Office

The Grant County Treasurer's Office has a direct line for its fax. The new number is (509) 754-6576.

Ask MRSC

New Web Page - Public Facilities Districts

In response to an increased interest in exploring the formation of public facilities districts, information has been added to the economic development section of the Municipal Research Center's Web site. Public facilities districts may acquire, construct, and operate sports facilities, entertainment facilities, convention facilities or regional centers and related parking facilities.

Counties have been able to create public facility districts since 1988 (Ch. 36.100 RCW). In 1999 legislation was passed to enable a single city or a group of contiguous cities in counties of less than one million to form a public facili-

ties district to build and operate regional centers (Ch. 35.57 RCW). The county PFD provisions were also amended to provide similar authority. Currently six districts have been formed - three county and three city. They are listed on this page along with the ordinances, resolutions and other documents that have created them. The address of the page is: <http://www.mrsc.org/econ/ed-pfd.htm>.

I-722 Information on MRSC Web Site

MRSC is continuing to update information I-722 litigation as it becomes available. It may be accessed through WSAC's Initiative 722 Web page or di-

rectly at: <http://www.mrsc.org/722/i722.htm>.

Reminder to Send 2001 Budgets to MRSC

Municipal Research would like copies of all county budgets for the reference library. The budgets contain valuable program information as well as fiscal data. They are used by staff when responding to and they are made available for loan. Please send to MRSC Library, 1200 4th Avenue, Ste. 1300, Seattle, WA 98101-1159.

State Announces Sex Offender Housing Sites

On November 21, Dennis Braddock, Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services, announced first the finalists among potential sites and then on Dec. 1, the first choice and three alternatives. All of the sites are on state-owned land. Of the 11 potential sites, 8 are in eastern Washington and 3 on the westside. The 11 sites are:

1. The State Patrol fire-training academy in King County;
2. Two sites at the Airway Heights Corrections Center in Spokane County;
3. Three sites near Eastern State Hospital near Medical Lake in Spokane County;
4. The Indian Ridge Youth Camp in Snohomish County;
5. The Washington State Reformatory Farm in Snohomish County;
6. Two sites near the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla; and
7. The Yakima Valley School near the city of Selah in Yakima County.

The primary site announced on Dec. 1 was one of the two sites near the state penitentiary in the City of Walla Walla. The three alternatives are one at Airway Heights, one at Medical Lake, and one at the State Reformatory in Monroe.

Needless to say, there was universal outcry from local elected officials, both city and county. Although WSAC had a county representative, Commissioner

Judy Wilson, Thurston, on the siting task force, the final selection of possible sites moved faster than anyone would have liked and local officials felt excluded from any real participation in the final decisions. In fact, some of them were not even informed until they read it in their local newspapers.

Spokane County responded by placing a moratorium on new halfway houses disqualifying one of the possible sites in the county that was on the original list of 11.

The hasty decision was a result of DSHS being forced to act under a court order by federal district court judge, William Dwyer. They admit no community is going to welcome a residential facility for sex predators and that they wished they had had more time for a more exhaustive process. Judge Dwyer has mandated the first sex offenders eligible for the residential treatment program would need to be housed no later than March 2001. It is planned the first site would have three offenders and within nine months, a second site would also house three offenders.

Acting Assistant Secretary Tim Brown, Health & Rehabilitative Services, DSHS, indicated 126 offenders at the Special Commitment Center (SCC) on McNeil Island are eligible for residential treatment programs. They are looking at siting a larger facility of up to 30 beds sometime in the future.

At a recent hearing in front of Judge Dwyer, the Judge reiterated that one of

his continuing major concerns about the program is the development of this less restrictive alternative after an offender has completed the treatment program at SCC. He currently has a daily fine accumulating against DSHS pending his satisfaction with changes at the Center.

The siting criteria, which were completed prior to selection of potential sites, has a list of factors for a site to meet. They include such items as the home must not be in the "line of sight" of schools, school bus stops, pre-schools, licensed child care centers, parks, publicly dedicated trails, sports fields, playgrounds, recreational centers, community centers or places of worship. Law enforcement or other designated officials must be able to respond to public safety concerns at the home within five minutes. The residents of the home will be under 24-hour/7-day week supervision and constant electronic monitoring and no more than three offenders may be in any one home.

If there is any positive note about this development, it is that the community will at least know where these offenders are and that they are more closely supervised than any others who are free in the community. It is a sad fact that every community has sex offenders residing among us. Even here at WSAC, several transient offenders have been housed temporarily next door by a local charitable organization.

DSHS Announces Additional 4% Cuts

DSHS has announced the additional 4% cuts they have proposed to the Governor for his consideration and at his request. They are hugely significant in size and impact. It is unknown which ones will be selected by the Governor either from this list or the earlier 2% cut list which was put in an earlier *Courthouse Journal*. It is important to remember they are cumulative for a total 6% reduction. The dollar totals for the entire agency are \$374 million general fund state and \$468 million in total funds.

Additional reductions of particular interest to us, by category, are:

1. Reduction of both secure and non-

secure crisis residential centers and family reconciliation services (these are part of the "Becca" package of services);

2. Reduction to county juvenile justice consolidated funds;
3. Reduction of community commitment county-contracted beds for juvenile offenders;
4. Elimination of juvenile parole services;
5. Downsize state mental hospitals by 447 beds or 12 + wards;
6. Reduce county day and employment programs for those with developmental disabilities;
7. Increased case management ratio for Area Agencies on Aging;

8. Elimination of CHORE program for the disabled and elderly;
9. Reduction of nursing home rates and adult day health programs;
10. Elimination of refugee social services;
11. Elimination of WAPA Child Support Enforcement Project;
12. Elimination of vocational factors and addition of time limits on remaining GA-U recipients;
13. Eliminate adult dental for GA-U clients;
14. 2% ratable reduction for providers;
15. Eliminate the medically indigent program; and

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16. Co-pays on emergency room care.

If you have questions about any of these items, please contact Jean Wess-

man, WSAC Staff at 360-753-1886. Additional information is also available on DSHS' website at www.wa.gov/dshs/ budget. This is the first year they have

nearly instantaneously put the budget on the web. In some instances, it was there before some division directors had it their hand.

New County Finances Study Released

The League of Women Voters of Washington in cooperation with the Institute for Washington's Future released a new report on county finances in October 2000. The purpose of the study and report was to assist members in better understanding the complexities of state/local finance and therefore clarify issues of importance to the county finance system. The report is available on-line at: <http://www.lwvwa.org/taxes/TaxStudy.doc>.

The first section of the report deals with the history and background of

Washington taxes. Section 2 covers county responsibilities, powers and revenues. Section 3, entitled "Key Comparisons and Contrasts Among Washington Counties," should be of interest to many WSAC members as it provides a number of charts that compare categories of revenues and expenditures per capita across the state. Section 4 deals with what are termed gaps such as unfunded mandates, infrastructure gaps and equalization. Section 5 deals with issues raised by the study. It identifies "rich" counties and "poor" counties and shows

that the top six counties raise more than the remaining thirty three in property taxes. It also shows that the top three counties raise three times more sales tax revenue than the remaining counties combined.

WSAC has already received calls from the news media, and League members will more than likely be using this report when dealing with county finance questions. It would benefit WSAC members to know its contents when you are talking to your local media.

Employment Opportunities

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES MANAGER, (Public Health, Nurse - Manager) Whatcom County, Bellingham, WA, is seeking a master's prepared nurse for the division manager position in the Community Health & Wellness Services Division of the Health & Human Services Department. This position is responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling the efforts of staff, and other work and community groups to accomplish the work, mission, goals and vision of the department and the County in the assessment and delivery of a variety of nursing, social work, nutrition and medical services to individuals, families, groups and communities. Requires a bachelor's degree in nursing, including study in public health nursing AND a master's degree in nursing, public health or an allied health field AND 5 years of progressively responsible public health nursing experience in a health department INCLUDING 3 years of supervisory experience, OR equiva-

lent. Hiring range: \$53,844-\$67,644 annually, (eff. 1/1/01), DOQ. The application period for this position closes 1/15/01. For required application contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

ADAMS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS is accepting applications for County Engineer. This position is responsible for the establishment, design, construction, alteration and improvements of county roads and bridges as required by law. The County Engineer assists the Public Works Director in the planning, administration and coordination of county engineering, solid waste, road maintenance, computer support for public works and related activities. Annual salary

is \$41,822 to \$61,032 (DOQ). Required qualifications include registration as a professional civil engineer, three (3) years of progressively responsible professional engineering work experience involving a variety of assignments associated with the design, construction or maintenance of roads and bridges. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. A completed application form along with resume and letter of interest are required. For application and information contact Adams County Public Works, 210 W. Alder, Ritzville, WA 99169 or call (509) 659-3276. Equal Opportunity Employer.

HUMAN RESOURCE/ ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR, Yakima County— Salary Range \$64,454—\$97,933 annually DOQ. Requirements (Education and/or Experience): Equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Public Administration, business, pre-law or a related field and seven (7)

years progressively responsible human resources and labor relations work experience including four (4) years in a managerial capacity. Description of Duties: Experienced human resources leader to join the executive management team of a dynamic county organization. Responsible for Labor Relations and the overall direction, management and supervision of Human Resources, Risk Management, Purchasing and Printing departments which provide internal support services to the organization. Directly accountable to the Board of County Commissioners. Works closely with the Board and executive team to identify alternatives on a broad range of county-wide policies, administrative projects and community service initiatives. Serves as chief staff advisor to the Board, other departments and agencies on all personnel matter. Final Filing Date: January 19, 2001 - Apply at: Yakima County Human Resources Department, 128 N. 2nd Street, Room 412, Yakima, WA

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Employment Opportunities

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98901, (509) 574-2220 Internet: www.co.yakima.wa.us, E-mail: human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us. EOE

RISK MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCES, Yakima

County - Salary Range \$47,366 - \$69,873 annually DOQ. Requirements (Education and/or Experience): Equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business, Pre-law or a related field and five (5) years of progressively responsible Risk and Safety Management work experience. Experience must include at least two (2) years in a supervisory or managerial capacity. Description of duties: Risk Manager position to serve as a key member of the Human Resources/Administrative Services management team. Responsible for the overall management and supervision of the day-to-day operations of the County's Risk Management programs including developing, implementing, administering, assigning and coordinating resources, staff and activities. This position reports to the Human Resources/Administrative Services Director and works closely with the Civil Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, other county managers, department heads/elected offi-

cials and third party administrators to ensure a safe work environment for all employees and to eliminate or reduce loss exposure through property, liability and personnel perils. Final Filing Date: January 19, 2001 - Apply at Yakima County Human Resources Department, 128 N. 2nd Street, Room 412, Yakima, WA 98901 (509) 574-2220 or through the internet at www.co.yakima.wa.us, or E-mail at human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us. EOE

PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Experienced person sought to process payroll & benefits for Grays Harbor County. Job description available. Salary \$32-38K DOQ. Contact B. Sherman (360-249-4232) for information & application. Closes 12/13/00.

CHIEF DEPUTY, WHATCOM COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Manages all areas of the Whatcom County Auditor's office operations including internal auditing, elections, recording and licensing, as assigned. Works with the elected County Auditor on planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling the efforts of staff, and other work and community groups to accomplish the work, mission, goals and vision of the Department and the County. Ensures compliance with department/

county policies and procedures, collective bargaining agreements and legal requirements. Manages programs and staff in a manner that ensures expenditures remain within budget guidelines. Develops relationships with staff, other departments and individuals outside county government that encourage participation, teamwork, effective relationships and use of resources. Develops and maintains relationships with political parties. Plans, conducts and presents at public meetings for various community groups and schools. Qualifications: Requires a Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or a related field and five years progressively responsible auditing experience including two years supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education, training and experience that provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Masters degree in public, business administration or a related field is preferred. Two years of financial management or accounting experience desirable. Current Certified Public Accountant or Certified Internal Auditor certificate highly desirable. Salary Range: \$49,500 - \$62,184. Closing Date: January 2, 2001. Applications must be received in Human Resources by the closing date. You may also fax a copy of your application materials to (360) 738-2521 by the closing date, and mail or drop off the originals. To request that appli-

cation materials be mailed to you please call (360) 676-6802. Whatcom County Human Resources is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays. For more information visit our website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us.

CHIEF DEPUTY AUDITOR

The Whatcom County Auditor's Office is seeking a proven leader for Chief Deputy Auditor. Salary range is \$49,500 - \$62,184 annually (eff. 1/1/01). This highly creative position offers a variety of leadership opportunities working with diverse divisions. Excellent employer-paid benefits for employee and family, 3 weeks vacation/year to start, avg. 12 holidays/year, Washington State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125. Requires a BA degree in public administration, business administration, or related field AND 5 years auditing experience including 2 years supervisory experience, or equiv. CPA or Cert. Internal Auditor desirable. 2 years of financial management or accounting experience is desirable. Application period closes 1/2/01. Required application available @ Human Resources, (360) 676-6802, Bellingham, WA. Call Job Line at (360) 738-4550 or visit www.co.whatcom.wa.us for details. Equal Opportunity Employer.