

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

February 10, 2005
Issue No. 6

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Testimony on Public Records Changes Heard in House Committee

Changes to the public records requirements in the Public Disclosure Act were heard in the House Government Operations & Accountability Committee on Wednesday this week. Randy Gaylord, San Juan County Prosecuting Attorney and WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler both testified on **HB 1758**, the bill proposed by Attorney General Rob McKenna as a compromise to **HB 1350**. Both bills were reported on in the *Courthouse Journal*.

Randy Gaylord testified to language he would recommend clarifying the attorney/client privilege and made other

suggested improvements to several sections of the bill. Bill Vogler testified that the cost of implementing indexing in counties with up to ten separately elected officials would prove costly and that the provision should be removed from the bill. Both Gaylord and Vogler testified that **HB 1758** was a significant improvement over **HB 1350** and recommended that a deposit be charged for large records requests before a county is required to provide the documents. A comparison of the bills considered in this hearing as compiled by Randy Gaylord, is attached.

Representative Sommers Sponsors County Constitutional Amendment

Last year during the 2004 legislative session, Rep. Helen Sommers, Chair of House Appropriations Committee, introduced **HJR 4215**, a constitutional amendment that would allow two or more counties to "...consolidate or merge any statutory or constitutional function or structure, in a manner prescribed by law." The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) voted to oppose. Rep. Sommers made it very clear that if counties were to continue to seek state funding they would be expected to look at efficiencies and cost savings. She believed **HJR 4215** offered a way to accomplish that.

Later the LSC voted to reconsider their

position and offered to work on the issue during the interim. Several attempts were made to try and work with Rep. Sommers and the House and Senate local government committees but nothing happened. She decided to re-introduce the issue this year. In response WSAC introduced **HJR 4212**, also sponsored by Rep. Sommers.

The WSAC membership adopted the following statement during the annual meeting, "Counties of the future should have greater flexibility and options in determining their own governance structure. Each county must be able to decide which revenue sources fit the needs of its residents and have the

flexibility to levy them.”

HJR 4212 would allow counties to be one of five forms of government:

1) the current non-charter commission form of government;

2) the current freeholder created charter county;

3) a 5-7 member council with an elected executive that may have elected or appointed officials, with the exception of the prosecuting attorney;

4) a 5-7 member council with an appointed county administrator that may have elected or appointed officials, with the exception of the prosecuting attorney; and,

5) either of the previous two forms with the exception that with the approval of the county legislative authorities, elected officials could be elected or appointed in two or more contiguous counties with the exception of county legislative members and judges.

Option 5 was something Rep. Sommers had been trying to accomplish in her original **HJR 4215**. There is a precedent for such a district where the legislature allows superior court districts in two or more counties. All of this requires the voter approval of the citizens of any affected county, after the county legislative authority or a citizen petition places it on the ballot.

The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) 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 Wednesday.

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NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Bills Heard this Week of Interest to Assessors

On Monday, February 7, the Senate Government Operations & Elections heard **SB 5573** which would authorize local governments to seek voter approval for a fixed multi-year regular property tax dollar rate. This would be for up to six consecutive years and is subject to statutory dollar limitations. In addition to the rate, a ballot title must state the conditions for which the proposal is made. In the House Commerce & Labor Committee, **HB 1375** establishing a trainee real estate appraiser classification was heard. Also on the 7th, the House Local Government Committee heard **HB 1555**, which requires that special districts and mosquito control districts calculate district tax assessments by reference to current use, rather than market value, when calculating tax assessments for designated forest land, farm and agricultural land and/or open space land that meet the requisite legal criteria. This bill was later passed out of committee to Rules.

Tuesday, February 8, the House Finance Committee heard a number of property tax issues, the most important one being **HB 1502**, the Assessors and WACO priority bill modifying the tax abatement provisions for destroyed property. Diane Dorey, Lewis County Assessor and President of the Washington Association of County Assessors (WSACA) and Patricia Costello, Thurston County Assessor both gave admirable testimony in favor of the legislation. The committee members had several questions including whether an elected assessor would be making the decision and how the process currently works. The

committee also heard the following bills: 1) **HB 1446**, modifying requirements for voter-approved property tax levies. This would allow all taxing districts to ask voters to approve a lid lift which sets the growth rate for the revenue limit calculation for up to six years. 2) **HB 1465**, allowing the six-year property tax lid lift for counties and cities to be voted on at any election and deleting the requirement that the new levy money from the six-year lid lift not supplant existing funds used for the same purpose. This is a Tri-Association priority bill. 3) **HB 1578** & **HJR 4206** allowing taxing districts to ask their voters to approve multi-year levies in excess of the Constitutional one percent property tax rate limit. The excess levy elections would be limited to once every two years.

Thursday, another WSACA priority bill was heard in the Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee. **SB 5465** modifying the taxation of land valued under the open space program, changes the compensating tax for the farm and agriculture classification from seven to three years. It would also eliminate the 20% penalty on all classes. Dave Cook, Yakima County Assessor and chair of the WSACA Legislative Committee and Scott Furman, Okanogan County Assessor and Vice-President of WSACA, both testified in support of this bill. The Committee also heard **SB 5094** changing the maximum per parcel rate for conservation district special assessments from \$5 to \$10 per parcel. In the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee, **HB 5378** had a public hearing. This bill would allow

counties to increase funding for properties acquired through conservation futures for six and one quarter to twelve and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valued. It would also allow for the maintenance and operation of any property acquired.

REET Exemption for Agricultural Land

HB 1801, providing a real estate excise tax exemption for certain farm and agricultural land, will be heard by the House Economic Development, Agriculture and Trade Committee, on Tuesday, February 15, at 10:00 a.m. in HHR A. The prime sponsor of the bill is Representative Grant. County treasurers were sent a copy of this bill last week and have concerns about how the measure would be implemented, the cost, and other issues. Those interested should attend the hearing and sign in to testify.

Treasurers' Administration Bill – Treasurers/WACO Recommendation

HB 1158, county treasurers' administrative procedures, has been turned into a substitute bill with quite a few changes, after agreements with the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Association of Washington Business (AWB). The sections concerning abandoned intangible property/unclaimed property process have been largely gutted and the section concerning water rights transfers being shifted to DOR was removed because of objections by AWB. A new section takes care of active duty military personnel participating in any

Budget, Finance, and Taxes (continued)

conflict outside of the U.S. in regards to forgiving interest and penalties on property taxes. Language currently in statute expires in April. Two other sections of the bill include clarifying language from the treasurers themselves. The bill should be ready to be passed out of the House Local Government Committee next week. The companion bill, **SB 5014** will take the same amended form.

The DOR request bill concerning unclaimed property has been introduced. The number is **HB 1845**.

REET Fee Increase for Automation – Treasurers/WACO Recommendation

HB 1240, the treasurers' bill raising the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) fee to fund the development of an automated system to process REET, has also undergone a facelift. The

major changes negotiated with the Realtors' Association by Treas. Legislative Chair Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer, and agreed to by the treasurers, include a change in the distribution formula to 75% split equally by the 39 counties and 25% by population. This would ensure that the small counties could get their systems up and running and that some of the larger counties would not be sitting with more than they need. In addition, a five-year expiration date has been added.

Historic Court House Funding Well-Received by Legislators

A warm Senate hearing on legislation to create a matching grant program in the capital budget for historic county courthouse renovation pleased prime sponsor Senator Mark Doumit (D-Wahkiakum County). Jefferson

County Commissioner Phil Johnson testified in support of **SB 5331**, creating the grant program. \$20 million is sought this biennium to begin the fund. About \$95 million in need has been identified for courthouse repair and renovation across the state – and about half of that is due to historic preservation work.

The fund would help to preserve history and improve the physical facility in courthouses across the state. House sponsor Rep. Lynn Kessler (D-Grays Harbor County) has arranged for a hearing for companion bill **HB 1352** in House Capital Budget this week.

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
<u>HB 1352</u>	House Capital Budget	Establishing the Historic County Courthouse Grant Program	8:00 am	HHR A	2/16//05
<u>SB 5393</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Revising county assistance for indigent veterans	10:00 am	SHR 2	2/15/05

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Committees Hear Support for Indigent Defense Bills

House and Senate Judiciary Committees held public hearings this week on bills that would help counties pay for and improve the quality of their trial court criminal public defender services. All the speakers at the February 9 and 10 hearings testified in favor of the bills, **HB 1542** and **SB 5531**.

Grays Harbor County Commissioner Al Carter and Lewis County Commissioner Eric Johnson testified in favor of the bills on behalf of WSAC. The bills are a WSAC priority and are also supported by WACO and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) through the Tri-Association agreement. Other supporters at the hearings were Chief Justice Gerry Alexander of the Washington Supreme Court, superior and district court judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, public defenders, and representatives of the Washington State Bar Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

If funded in the budget, the two companion bills would provide \$25 million in the next biennium in direct funding to all counties and a grant program to five cities to help relieve the crisis in trial level public defense services. The first year of proposed funding is to be distributed upon receipt of current local expenditure and caseload information to the state Office of Public Defense (OPD). The second year of funding is contingent upon demonstrating to OPD improvements in public defense services.

A proposed distribution plan would provide 10 percent of the funding for a city grant program and would distribute the remaining 90

percent to counties based on a formula that provides each county with a base minimum that is increased based on population and felony filings.

The bills are part of a response to recent reports that have highlighted significant problems with some existing public defender services: The "Report of the WSBA Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense"; the Washington Juvenile Justice Assessment Project report; the ACLU publication *The Unfulfilled Promise of Gideon*; and a *Seattle Times* series profiling problems in several counties and cities across the state all agreed that inadequate funding for public defense has contributed to costly appeals and reversals, civil rights lawsuits alleging that counties are failing to meet constitutional requirements, inefficiencies in court proceedings, and loss of public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Inspector General Created in Proposed HB 1909

Representative Bill Hinkle has introduced **HB 1909** which would create the office of the Inspector General who would report directly to the Governor. The Inspector General would be a criminal justice agency charged with conducting and supervising investigations relating to allegations of fraud and would inform the governor and the legislature about vulnerabilities and deficiencies relating to detection and prevention of fraud as discovered by the unit. The inspector will be appointed on the basis of his/her integrity, has subpoena powers and can serve process but will submit cases to the appropriate prosecutor. It will be an unfair practice for any

employer, government agency, etc. to retaliate against anyone cooperating with the Inspector General.

Jail Costs

Mason County Sheriff Steve Whybark testified in support of **HB 1219**, prescription drug consortium, on Monday in House Appropriations. The bill has the potential for greatly reducing the purchase of medication, especially psychotropic drugs, that are required for inmates of county jails. WACO is completing a survey of the costs of housing the mentally ill in county jail and needs only the responses of a few large counties to finish the project. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs started the survey and allowed WACO to "piggy-back" off the project to gain additional information. Several legislators have requested the information. The survey will be made available to all counties when complete.

Authentication of Documents

HB 1471, authentication of documents, is a County Clerks' priority bill and WACO's as well. House Judiciary appeared receptive to changes to 1881 statutes that direct how a seal is affixed to certify "a full, true and correct copy of the original on file" in the county clerk's office and that electronic transmission means telegraph. As one lobbyist says, if the statute is older than I am, it needs to be changed.

Civil Indigent Defense

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard **SB 5685** on Thursday. It would create the office of Civil Legal

Courts, Public Safety, Law and Justice (continued)

Aid whose director would be appointed by the Supreme Court from a list of three persons submitted by the Access to Justice Committee. The office would be funded from the Public Safety and Education Account.

Jury Source Lists

SB 5691 was also heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee and would allow counties with more than one Superior Court facility, and a separate case assignment for each facility, the jury assignment area boundaries may be designated and adjusted by the administrative office of the courts based on census data. That means King County jurors would serve at the Regional Justice Center, in Kent, if they live in that area rather than in downtown Seattle.

Forensic Investigations Council Bill Gets Amendment

SB 5035, a bill to eliminate the forensic pathology specialist program through the University of Washington, and allow the Forensic Investigations Council to develop a state forensic pathologist program, should move out of the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee soon with new language that better reflects that a state forensic pathologist program has not yet been established. Please urge committee members to pass the amended version out of committee.

Shoot the Dinosaur?

HB 1046 would eliminate the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) and some wonder if that is a bad thing. The House Appropriations Committee is

scheduled to do just that soon and county clerks, among others, have requested that at the very least, a study be done to determine if it serves a purpose and if it can be restored to its original form which is primarily to train law enforcement officers through the Criminal Justice Training Commission, and build court computer systems through the Administrator for the Courts. PSEA is a dedicated account funded by 46% of court fines, fees and forfeitures and has taken on the appearance of Fibber McGee's closet, as every worthy cause to come along has been thrown in the mix.

Help for Crime Victims

The Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee will hear **SB 5430** on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room 1. **SB 5430** will move \$4 million from the "accident" account to Crime Victims' Compensation which is experiencing a shortfall of that amount.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Hearings on Elections Bills Next Week

Check the schedule below for hearings on elections bills next week. The Secretary of State's legislative package is being heard; most notably the WACO/WSAC/Auditors endorsed issue requiring the state to assume its share of even-year election costs. The bill numbers are [HB 1748](#) and [SB 5746](#).

Committee Hears Elections Bills

The House State Government Committee heard several elections bills on Wednesday, including [HB 1363](#), allowing voters to select "none of the above" during a primary or general election; [HB 1604](#), revising various election laws; and [HB 1456](#), changing the primary to the first Tuesday in September.

Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, co-chair of the Auditors' Association Legislative Committee, testified on all three bills with concerns. Her comments on [HB 1363](#) were that adding a line to ballots with "none of the above" could potentially cost more money to counties when printing ballots because it may increase the number of pages and that there is already a process for over and under votes.

Wyman emphatically stated that moving the primary to the first Tuesday in September, as set forth by [HB 1456](#), would not help county auditors in preparing for an election, and that they need to have the primary moved back at least 30 days in order to avoid any disasters.

[HB 1604](#), would not only move the primary to the third Tuesday in June, but also stipulates, among other things, that absentee ballots be in the auditor's office by election day; that

a single, uniform voting system be instituted throughout the state; and that the voter must receive a receipt noting how he/she voted. Both SOS and Wyman took on several points, including

- a uniform voting system throughout the state would not be practical, not to mention that there would be no bargaining power with vendors
- the printed receipt requirement would comprise the privacy of the voter
- absentee ballots in by the day of the election won't provide faster election results and could disenfranchise voters whose ballots get caught up in the postal system

One of the committee members asked Wyman if the auditors had taken a position on all vote-by-mail elections to which she replied that they hadn't formally endorsed the concept, but that if the legislators wanted uniformity, statewide vote-by-mail would get them there.

WACO/Auditor Priority Bill Passes Out of Committee

[HB 1386](#), increasing the surcharge on recorded documents from \$2 to \$5 for the preservation of historical documents, received a do pass recommendation from the House Local Government Committee, Wednesday and has been referred to the House Finance Committee.

County Auditor Privacy Bill

[SB 5459](#), restricting the information on recorded documents was heard Thursday morning in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee.

Prime sponsor Senator Paull Shin

testified in support of the bill explaining to the committee that he has been a victim of identity theft, and this legislation would not allow documents that are presented for recording to contain social security numbers, mother's maiden name or birth date. These are the three key pieces of information that are needed to open most bank accounts, loans or credit accounts.

Also testifying in favor of the bill was Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger who explained to the committee that this was a day forward piece of legislation. This did not mean that the auditors' office would be going back and redacting records in the past, it means that any document brought forward after the passage of this legislation would not contain those three key identifiers. Bob also informed the committee that there will be some amending language offered before the bill passes out of committee that makes it clear that the burden of making sure this information is not contained in the documents falls on the preparer of the document rather than the county auditor's office.

Allied Daily Newspapers testified in favor of the bill, and stressed that government needs to limit the amount of personal information taken in that pertains to private individuals.

Also, signed up in favor of the bill was Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy.

Ending Homelessness

[HB 1810](#), ending homelessness in the state of Washington, was heard Thursday in the House Housing Committee. The bill would create the Homeless Housing Program which would be funded by a \$10

Elections, Licensing and Recording (continued)

surcharge for each document recorded by the county auditor. Island County Auditor Suzanne

Sinclair testified with concerns on behalf of the county auditors. The bill is scheduled for Executive

Session next week.

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<i>Location Bldg/Room</i>	Date
<u>SB 5741</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Modifying provisions on voters' pamphlets	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5743</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Enhancing voter registration recordkeeping	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5744</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Authorizing county-wide mail ballot elections	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5745</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Modifying primary election law	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5746</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Requiring the state to assume a share of primary and general election costs	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5564</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Requiring the secretary of state to prepare a manual of election laws and rules	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>SB 5565</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Informing out-of-state, overseas, and service voters of rights and procedures	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	02/14/05
<u>HB 1748</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Requiring the state to assume a share of primary and general election costs	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05
<u>HB 1749</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Strengthening review and correction of county election procedures	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05
<u>HB 1750</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Modifying primary election law	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05
<u>HB 1751</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Requiring absentee ballots to reach the auditor by election day	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05
<u>HB 1753</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Enhancing voter registration recordkeeping	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05
<u>HB 1755</u>	House State Government and Accountability	Modifying provisions on voters' pamphlets	8:00 a.m.	HHR D	02/18/05

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Puget Sound Bills

Environmental groups have dropped a series of bills aimed at improving water quality in Puget Sound and coastal waters. Aside from the on-site septic bills, which were heard this past week, the others will be heard in the coming week.

SB 5619 and **HB 1639** would create a stronger link between GMA planning and water quality. **SB 5618** and **HB 1638** establish additional criteria for designation of long-term commercial forest land. **HB 1637** and **SB 5620** establish new criteria for open space valuation.

Forest Land Conversion

HB 1404, sponsored by Rep. Brian Sullivan (D-Snohomish County) and **SB 5376**, offered by Senator Ken Jacobsen (D-King County) are beginning to move through the process. The bills clarify that it is generally local government, and not DNR, that is responsible to regulate the development of land that is changing land use from forestry to urban. Since 1997, all counties and cities have been required to adopt regulations over certain Class IV forest practices generally related to conversion of forestland. The initial purpose of the 1997 legislation was to recognize that Class IV General forest practices are directly related to changes in land use and that these changes are ultimately decided by local governments.

Currently, local regulations must meet or exceed the rules adopted by the Forest Practices Board. Although all counties and cities have a December 2005 deadline to adopt local forestland conversion ordinances, to date only four counties and no cities have met the requirements of the act.

Since enactment of the 1997 legislation, we have discovered that the statute doesn't work well – especially with tougher forest and fish rules. Forest practices regulations are designed for implementation within a forest environment, not in the suburban or urban environment after conversion of forestland takes place. The science upon which the forest practices rules are based is not applicable to a suburban environment and using Forest Practices Act protection standards is inappropriate when converting land from forestry to another use.

In addition, current law requires all counties and cities to adopt conversion ordinances, although few, if any, forest practices have ever been filed in some Eastern Washington counties and many cities throughout the state.

HB 1404 and **SB 5376**, developed jointly by the Washington State Association of Counties, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development address these concerns through modification of the Forest Practices Act and a new section in the Growth Management Act. The proposed changes:

- Base the environmental protection standard on the GMA, rather than the FPA.
- Require only those counties, and the cities and towns within those counties, with twenty five or more forest practices conversion applications within three consecutive years (2000 - 2002) to assume regulatory authority over conversion-related forest practices. This transfers more than 90% of the conversion

applications to local government. Counties, cities and towns not required take over conversion-related forest practices may, nonetheless, choose to do so.

- Clarify that (with narrow exceptions) all forest practices within Urban Growth Areas and all Class IV General Applications outside Urban Growth Areas will transfer to the local government.
- Extend from December 31, 2005 to December 31, 2007 the deadline to adopt conversion ordinances, consistent with the GMA timeline for counties and cities to update critical area ordinances and comprehensive plans.
- Trigger the change of jurisdiction by a letter from the local government to the DNR and Ecology stating that the requirements have been met and informing the agencies of the effective date of the regulations.

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<i>Location</i> <i>Bldg/Room</i>	Date
<u>Work Session</u>	Select Committee on Hood canal	Chesapeake Bay Program	8:00 am	HHR E	2/15/05
<u>HB 1639</u>	House Local Government	Including water quality in GMA Planning	6:00 pm	HHR E	2/15/05
<u>SB 5619</u>	Senate Water, Energy & Environment	Including water quality in GMA Planning	3:30 pm	SHR 4	2/15/05
<u>SB 5505</u>	Senate Water, Energy & Environment	Stormwater Liability	3:30 pm	SHR 4	2/16/05
<u>SB 5376</u>	Senate Natural Resources, Oceans and Recreation	Forest Land Conversion	8:00 am	SHR 2	2/16/05

General Government Issues

Drivers' Education Funding Bills Dropped

HB 1879 and **HB 1880** were introduced this week and both fund drivers' education. Both bills are sponsored by Representatives Murray, Hankins and Cody and have been referred to House Transportation. **HB 1879** adds \$3 to vehicle registrations and license plates to be deposited in the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) for drivers' education, while **HB 1880** adds \$1 to be used strictly for drivers' education for low income students. At the same time, House Appropriations has heard **HB 1046** which would eliminate the PSEA Account.

Public Health and Human Services

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	Location Bldg/Room	Date
<u>HB 1589</u> <u>HB 1833</u> <u>HB 1867</u>	House Children & Family Services	Increasing the amount of vocational education that qualified as a work activity under WorkFirst Providing incentives for improved job training and placement services. Restricting the use of funds for the Washington WorkFirst program.	1:30	JLOB D	2/14/05
<u>HB 1708</u>	House Education	Regarding drop-out prevention	1:30	JLOB B	2/14/05
<u>HB 1910</u>	House Health Care	Stabilizing the health insurance market and reducing the number of uninsured individuals in Washington state.	1:30	JLOB A	2/15/05
<u>HB 1702</u> <u>SB 5048</u>	House Health Care	Creating the "Health Care Responsibility Act" to expand access to health insurance coverage Prohibiting tobacco product sampling	8:00	JLOB A	2/17/05
<u>HB 1017</u> <u>HB 1018</u>	House Health Care	Restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine to licenses pharmacists Requiring photo identification in the sale and purchase of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine	1:30	JLOB A	2/18/05
<u>HB 1629</u> <u>HB 1810</u> <u>Executive Session</u>	House Housing	Revising distribution of funds for operating and maintenance of very low-income projects Ending homelessness in the state of Washington	8:00 & 10:00	JLOB D	2/15/05 & 2/17/05
<u>HB 1661</u>	House Juvenile Justice & Family Law	Specifying procedures for transfer of juvenile proceedings.	10:00	JLOB E	2/15/05
<u>HB 1531</u> <u>HB 1644</u> <u>HB 1660</u> <u>Executive Session</u>	House Juvenile Justice & Family Law	Limiting the waiver of counsel in juvenile proceedings Changing the law pertaining to waiver of rights by a juvenile Expanding the definition of "at-risk youth"	1:30	JLOB E	2/16/05
<u>SB 5713</u> <u>SB 5767</u>	Senate Financial Institutions, Housing and Consumer Protection	Assisting tenants in multiple-unit housing proposed for rehabilitation Developing plans to address the housing needs of homeless persons	3:30	JAC 2	2/16/05
<u>SB 5536</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Providing for a JLARC study of the basic health plan	3:30	JAC 4	2/14/05
<u>SB 5861</u> <u>SB 5628</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Stabilizing the health insurance market and reducing the number of uninsured individuals in Washington State	8:00	JAC 4	2/16/05

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

<u>SB 5637</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Creating the "Health Care Responsibility Act" to expand access to health insurance coverage	3:30	JAC 4	2/17/05
<u>SB 5722</u>		Concerning small employers and the basic health plan			
<u>SB 5472</u>		Expanding health benefit plan options available to employers			
<u>SB 5430</u>	Senate Human Services & Corrections	Providing funds for the crime victims' compensation program	10:00	JAC 1	2/15/05
<u>SB 5487</u>	Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development	Requiring the liquor control board to implement a retail business plan to improve efficiency and increase revenue	10:00	JAC 4	2/14/05
<u>Public Hearing</u>	Senate Ways & Means	Governor Locke's Budget Proposal	1:30	JAC 4	2/14/05
<u>SB 5287</u>	Senate Ways & Means	Revising provisions relating to disbursement of liquor revolving fund moneys for the purpose of funding alcohol education programs.	1:30	JAC 4	2/16/05

Association News

2005 Directory of County Officials in Washington State – UPDATES since publication

- Pg 19/Jefferson Co: Newly appointed Clerk is Ruth Gordon with e-mail address
rgordon@co.jefferson.wa.us
- Pg 23/King Co: Sheriff Sue Rahr's correct e-mail address should read
susan.rahr@metrokc.gov
- Pg 26/Kittitas Co: Newly appointed Auditor is Jerry Pettit with [email address](mailto:jerry@co.kittitas.wa.us)
jerry@co.kittitas.wa.us
- Pg 28/Lewis Co: Newly appointed Sheriff is Steve Mansfield.
- Pg 34/Pierce Co: Council District 6, Dick Muri's phone number should be (253) 798-3308.
- Pg 41/Spokane Co: Assessor Ralph Baker's correct e-mail address is rabaker@spokanecounty.org.

Training and Upcoming Events

CPO Curriculum Review Committee Meets

The CPO Curriculum Review Committee met on Feb 9 in Olympia, to begin discussions on previous courses, new courses, content and overall input regarding the program. Many items were discussed, including upcoming course ideas and a revised needs assessment. The needs assessment will be sent electronically to participants by the end of the month. If you do not receive one via email and would like to participate, please contact the program manager for a copy.

The committee decided to approve criteria for accepting one independent study course as an elective credit. Anyone who has taken a course outside CPO may apply for this credit, with final discretion left to the committee. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available.

Now that the committee has held its first meeting, a course calendar will be out soon. Please note the upcoming courses listed below. We would like to thank the committee for its continued efforts to improve and impact CPO.

Upcoming Courses: "Public Meetings and Public Disclosure"

March 30	Colfax
March 31	Ellensburg
April 6	Mt. Vernon
April 7	Pierce County

Courthouse Ramblings

Congratulations to Island County Auditor **Suzanne Sinclair**, the newest member of the WACO Board of Trustees! Suzanne takes over the Trustee-at-large position that was vacated when Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander was elected WACO Secretary-Treasurer. Position 3 represents counties with populations of 40,000 to 125,000. Suzanne has served as Island County Auditor for the past seven years.

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>FEBRUARY 2005</u>			
Washington Counties Risk Pool Focus Training "Law Enforcement Issues 2005"	La Quinta Inn & Suites/Conference Center, Tacoma	February 22	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool Focus Training "Law Enforcement Issues 2005"	Best Western Lake Inn & Conference Center, Moses Lake	February 24	(360) 586-7447
<u>MARCH 2005</u>			
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Legislative Conference	Marriott Wardman, Washington D.C.	March 2 - 3	www.pria.us
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 4	(360) 753-1886
National Association of Clerks, Recorders and Elections Officials (NACRC) Legislative Conference (with NACo)	Marriott Wardman, Washington, D.C.	March 4 - 6	www.nacrc.org
National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 4 - 8	www.naco.org
"Your Path to the Marketplace"	Pend Oreille County	Mar. 5 – Apr. 16	(509) 447-2401
WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' (WACME) Medicolegal Training	WA State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Bldg, Lacey	March 7-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Recording Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee	March 15-16	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Services	Skamania County	March 16 - 18	(360) 753-1886
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards and Insurance Advisory Committee	Red Lion at the Park, Spokane	March 17	(360) 586-0466
WCAA Annual Conference – Winter	Enzian Inn, Leavenworth	March 23 – 25	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 25	(360) 753-1886
<u>APRIL 2005</u>			
WACO Board of Trustees' Meeting	Washington Counties Building, Olympia	April 6-7	
16 th Annual National County Government Week		April 10-16	
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Ace Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Yakima Convention Center	April 13	(360) 586-0466

Calendar of Events (continued)

Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Spring Board Meeting, 9 am	Best Western CottonTree Convention Center, Mt. Vernon	April 14	(360) 586-7447
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 15	(360) 753-1886
Washington STATE	Sine Die - 59th Legislative Session Ends	April 25	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm