

# the Courthouse Journal

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

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*Inside the  
Courthouse Journal*

**Budget, Finance & Taxes**  
Pages 2-5

**Courts, Public Safety,  
Law & Justice**  
Pages 5-7

**Elections, Licensing  
& Recording**  
Pages 7-9

**Environment, Land Use  
& Resources**  
Pages 9-11

**General Government**  
Pages 11-12

**Public Health &  
Human Services**  
Page 12

**Transportation &  
Public Works**  
Pages 13-14

**Boards & Commissions**  
Pages 14-15

**Training &  
Upcoming Events**  
Page 15

**Good Things**  
Pages 15-17

**Attachments**  
Pages 18-20

*Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties*

## Action Alert on Open Meeting Act Bill

On Monday, February 4, the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee will hear **HB 3292**, sponsored by Representative Kessler (D-Hoquiam), which requires the taping of executive sessions. WSAC has taken the position of opposing the legislation.

The legislation has been changed to place the burden of proof on the person seeking disclosure of the contents of the executive session. Additionally, the bill limits disclosure to only those portions that are in violation of executive session provisions. However, the legislation is still troublesome for the following reasons:

- The bill requires executive sessions to be taped. This will create a chilling effect on the free flow of discussions.
- Additionally, it would be the only instance in which attorney-client privilege communications would be required to be taped and potentially disclosed.
- The bill would allow disclosure of the contents of the executive session if notice requirements are violated. Consequently, if notice of the session was posted for 23 hours rather than 24 hours, a person could bring an action to disclose the entire contents of the tape.

WSAC believes that this is a heavy handed way to deal with isolated violations. The Open Meetings Act is a complicated statute and the Legislature's attention should be directed at education to prevent violations.

### Action Alert on Open Records Act Bills

We are also asking you to contact your Representatives to oppose these bills:

- **HB 2839**, sponsored by Representative Williams (D-Olympia) to remove the ability of agencies, including local government, from seeking judicial review to prevent the disclosure of a public record. Counties should have the ability to seek judicial review to resolve whether a record is exempt or not. If a county determines a document is exempt on its own and is wrong, the county will be subject to costly fines.
- **HB 3231** would narrow the use of attorney-client privilege as a basis for denying records releases to only those documents created during on-going litigation. Documents created prior to the filing of a civil action must be disclosed even if privileged.

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## The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays.

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- **HB 3251** would prevent self-insurance programs like the Washington Counties Risk Pool from using their resources to seek advice, defend or cover violations of the Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act that have been alleged against them. Risk pools would also be prohibited from providing training on either Act.

## Pension Update

Both the Senate Ways & Means and House Appropriations Committees heard several bills related to pensions this week. However, none had impacts on local government pension rates. A good primer on the state pension system and projected employer rates was presented in House Appropriations and a copy of the materials can be found in the General Government section of the WSAC Legislative & Policy Center and web page.

**SB 6753**, to create a public safety enhancement account to fund an additional LEOFF Plan 2 benefit and local government public safety services, will be heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 5. While the 50-50 split of funds between funding local government public safety and the LEOFF Plan 2 benefit will remain, it is likely that a proposed substitute will be offered to phase in the funding over the course of 8-years. The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee will take a position on the legislation on February 7.

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# Budget, Finance and Taxes

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## So Many Bills, So Little Time

Only a little over two weeks into the session and everyone seems to be tracking more Property Tax and Tax related bills than ever. The pace seems to be faster and more furious than ever before, with a plethora of bills being dropped and various attempts made to tweak the system, and in some cases to redesign the way counties do business.

**SB 5863** directs Assessors to value property considering all aspects of government regulations affecting the property. They are already directed to do that under RCW 84.40.030, so why would additional language or laws be needed?

**HB 3280** is the Uniform Interest Rate proposal. If you think it doesn't affect you, I suggest you may wish to reread the proposal a little more closely. At this juncture, it would be a much shorter list to list only those areas and functions of government that it does not touch. For some counties that have a history of large Current Use Removals, this could represent a sizeable decrease in removal fees. It not only lowers the annual interest rate from 12% to 7%, but by doing that, the 20% Penalty normally applied will be reduced also.

**HB 2977** reflects the wish to change the burden of proof and presumption of

## Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

**Bill Information:** [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

correctness. This is one of the few times that anyone has wanted to shift the burden of proof onto the defendant. Normally, in case law, you are innocent until proven guilty. It also has the affect of removing the presumption of correctness. That is to say that any government employee who performs their day to day activities could be held to scrutiny, and their job performance cast in doubt. This ultimately could affect everyone who has a functionary or administrative job in government. It remains to be seen if that is an area we really wish to visit.

**SB 6565** actually has some merit because it introduces a tax break and does not shift the tax burden on to any other taxpayer. To do that, it would reduce the amount of the State Levy collection by a commensurate amount created by the tax break, so the state levy would collect less. Had the State had the prescience do this starting in the late 1800s, I submit to you that we would now have many fewer exemptions than we do today. But we didn't do that. Now this bill would introduce a ratcheting effect starting at \$50,000 valuation exception on residential properties, and then increasing to \$75,000, and then to \$100,000 in valuation exception. The popular term is "homestead exemption."

On another note, the Assessors were in Olympia the week of January 21 to January 24 for their 2008 Legislative Conference. It was a very well attended meeting with the usual time set aside for them to meet with their Legislative Representatives up on the hill. A progress report on Assessor and WACO priority bills, **HB 2609**, **HB 2610**, **HB 2611**, **HB 2612** and **SB 6706** and how they are moving through the system.

The Assessors were also very privileged to have six Senators and Representatives speak to them at their breakfast meeting January 24 at the Clarion Hotel. Senator and Ways & Means Chair Margarita Prentice and Senator and Caucus Chair Linda Evans Parlett; Representative Dean Takko, Representative Ed Orcutt, Representative Jim McIntire, Representative and Finance Chair Ross Hunter all took time from their very busy schedules to talk to and spend time with the Assessors. Their gracious response to take time to speak was greatly appreciated.

### **WSAC Legislative Priority – Economic Development Funding**

**SB 6797**, to provide urban counties with a .09% sales tax credit for public facilities that promote economic development, will be heard on February 1 before the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee. Thank you to Senators Kastama (D-Puyallup) and Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor) for sponsoring this WSAC priority. This sales tax credit operates like the credit for rural counties with one exception. Funding is capped at \$5 million per county to reduce the fiscal impact of the legislation.

The hearing in the Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee on **SB 6476** to increase the .09% sales tax credit for rural counties was a success. The committee unanimously voted the bill out of committee and to the Senate Ways & Means the same day. Thank you to Ferry County Commissioner Mike Blankenship and Wahkiakum County Commissioner Blair Brady for testifying in support of the legislation. Thanks also to Adams County Economic Development Officer Roger Krug for participating in a work session on rural economic development tools.

### **WSAC Resurrects REET Bill on Software Purchases**

**HB 1232**, sponsored by Representative Alexander (R-Olympia), introduced legislation in 2007 to allow local governments to use real estate excise taxes (REET) to purchase computer hardware and software for capital projects. The bill died due to opposition to using REET for any purchase other than pipes and pavement. However, it appears that we have reached agreement with those opposing the bill to allow such purchases for the next two years and to ratify any prior purchases.

### **2007 CERB Bill Also Moving**

During the 2007 legislative session, WSAC supported **SB 5762**, which provides a permanent funding source of the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). The legislation, sponsored by Senator Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor), passed unanimously again out of the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee on January 30. CERB would receive approximately \$30 million each year for projects through a real estate excise tax diversion like the Public Works Assistance Account. Although the price tag of the bill is high, the members of the committee strongly support the legislation. Additionally, the Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs & Funding Structures recommended the changes contained in **SB 5762**.

## **WSAC Opposing Changes to Public Works Assistance Account**

**HB 3264**, sponsored by Representative Loomis (D-Snohomish), and **SB 6853**, sponsored by Senator Fraser (D-Olympia), would allow the Legislature through the capital budget to add types of projects eligible for funding from the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). Additionally, the Legislature will set priorities for funding from the PWAA through the capital budget. The legislation is the product of the Study Committee on Public Infrastructure Programs & Funding Structures. However, many stakeholders, including WSAC, do not want to add more types of projects to the PWAA without additional funding. The changes may also politicize the PWAA by making it a larger part of the capital budget process.

## **Annual Revaluations of Property Tax Assessments**

WSAC and WACO have been working together to advance **HB 2611**, sponsored by Rep. McIntire (D-Seattle), and **SB 6706**, sponsored by Senator Oemig (D-Kirkland), to create a \$10 million grant program for purchases of computer hardware and software to enable all counties to convert to annual revaluation cycles for property tax assessments. **HB 2611** was heard in the House Finance Committee on January 25 and was supported by counties, cities, and the business community. **SB 6706** will be heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 7. WSAC took the position of supporting this legislation to smooth increases in assessments and to more accurately spread the tax burden among taxpayers.

## **Property Tax**

On January 29, the House Finance Committee held a work session on possible alternative property tax structures. However, while the House is debating what property tax system could be, the Senate will be hearing two bills to reduce assessed values. The Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee will hear **SB 6263**, sponsored by Senator Zarelli (R-Ridgefield), which would exclude from assessed value any increases due to zoning, land-use, and other regulations affecting property after a transfer of ownership. **SB 5863**, sponsored by Senator Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor), would require the county assessor to consider Growth Management Act regulations when establishing the fair market value of property.

## **Treasurers'/WACO Cleanup Bill**

The Treasurers'/WACO request bill, **HB 2986**, cleaning up various statutes with regard to collecting taxes, refunding of taxes and archaic language was heard by the House Finance Committee this morning. Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman, Treasurers' Legislative Committee chair, and vice chair Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County Treasurer testified in support of the bill.

Three bills were heard this week that the Treasurers' Association is opposing, including **SB 6234**, authorizing periodic tax payments by electronic funds transfer, and **SB 6185**, allowing treasurer discretion in property tax payment scheduling. Rose Bowman testified against both bills in the Senate Government Operations Committee.

Kitsap County Treasurer Barbara Stephenson, King County Treasury Manager Phil Sanders, and Clark County Treasurer Doug Lasher, attended the House Education Committee hearing on Thursday, to testify against **HB 2954**, authorizing certain school districts and educational service districts to designate a district treasurer. This bill originated with King County's investment pool fee structure and King County has been meeting with the school districts to negotiate contractual discussions.

## **Hearings Next Week for County Treasurers**

### **Monday, February 4**

#### **House Finance Committee**

8:00 p.m., HHRC

**HB 3140**, concerning property tax statements.

**HB 3280**, creating a uniform interest rate.

**SB 6851**, concerning the documentation required in order to obtain a real estate excise tax exemption at the time of inheritance.

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## ***Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice***

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### **Courts and Clerks**

**HB 2465**, authority to withhold and deliver, still needs a “pull” from House Rules – please contact your Rules members and request that they “pull” **HB 2465** to the Floor for a vote. House Rules is set to meet again on Wednesday, February 6, at 1:00 p.m. **SB 6193**, its companion, is due to be voted out of the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee any time.

**HB 2466**, modifying clerks’ duties, is in House Appropriations waiting for a hearing. Please contact Chair Representative Helen Sommers to request a hearing.

**HB 2176**, court interpreters, has been revived this session, and could reimburse counties for one half the cost of interpreters for hearing impaired and non-English speaking individuals depending on the availability of funds. The bill is currently in the Senate Judiciary committee.

**SB 6680**, a bill to excuse jurors over 75 years of age, will be heard in House Judiciary on February 5.

**SB 6330**, a bill to increase the juror pay and provide state reimbursement, had hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday. Mason County Clerk Pat Swartos welcomes the reimbursement but says the hit to county budgets while they wait for reimbursement is substantial.

**HB 3280** creates uniform interest rates for a variety of revenues counties collect but county clerks are mostly concerned about the estimated \$4 million annual loss to crime victims if rates are lowered. The rate is based on the treasury bill rate plus 2% (about 6-7% today) from the current statutory rate of 12%. **HB 3280** will be heard Monday night at 8:00 p.m. in the House Finance Committee. County treasurers worry about the estimated \$23 million loss to counties on interest for delinquent property taxes.

**HB 3235**, restitution to victims, requires that offenders provide information at time of sentencing as to what their assets are and where they are located; what property of the victims they possess and where; and other financial information.

**HB 3235** will be heard at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4, at 8:00 p.m. in the House Judiciary Committee.

### **Of Interest to Coroners and Medical Examiners**

#### **The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act**

Two bills introduced last session to create a uniform anatomical gift act in the state moved along this week. **SHB 5657** passed out of the Senate 49-0 and will be introduced in the House today while its companion **HB 1637** left the House and was referred to the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee. Both bills have been amended to reflect the compromise language coroners, medical examiners, and tissue and organ donation interests worked on over the summer and into the fall.

#### **Reparation of Human Remains**

**HB 2624** passed out of the House policy committee with amendments that met the collective concerns of coroners, medical examiners, sheriffs and prosecutors and the law enforcement community. Today it was referred to the House Appropriations Committee where the \$2 million fiscal note must be approved. The companion, **SB 6521**, was heard in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee last week but has not come up for executive action to move it along.

## **Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Team**

**HB 2937/SB 6491**, companions, allow DSHS to conduct a fatality review if the deaths of vulnerable adults in care facilities or hospice from suspected abuse, abandonment, neglect, etc. **HB 2937** was voted on in the House Health Care and Wellness Committee today and should move on. **SB 6491** was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Long Term Care. The proposal does not appear to interfere with death investigations.

## **Sheriffs' News**

### **Press Conference Scheduled for Tuesday**

Washington State Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo announced today that Sheriffs from across the State will meet in Olympia to lobby the Legislature on WSSA priority issues and meet with members of the media on Tuesday, February 5. The press conference is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on the steps at the North Side of the Legislative Building.

Major issues of concern to WSSA this Legislative Session are **HB 2624** and **SB 6524** which would authorize tribal police officers to act as general authority Washington State peace officers; **HB 1030**, enhancing the sentences of persons attempting to elude a police officer; and, numerous bills that deal with sex offenders.

The eluding bill has been a top priority of WSSA, several cities, and county associations for the past three sessions and advocates are confident that this year they can secure its passage.

Sheriffs have also shown strong support for legislation which will expand registration of sex offenders and notification to the community; the reclassification of some offenses; and provide funding to local governments to assist in address verification and notification.

Sheriff Elfo says, "Many sheriffs have commissioned tribal officers but WSSA has adopted a resolution opposed the tribal law enforcement proposal." He and other have testified against it. They have raised questions about the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity; the lack of accountability for officers; and, the lack of reciprocity between counties and tribes.

## **Tribal Law Enforcement**

**HB 2476**, an act commissioning tribal police officers as general authority peace officers in the state, passed out of the State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee without amendments and has been referred to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and Audit Review Committee. The senate companion bill, **SB 6524**, is being heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee at 1:30 p.m. today, Friday, February 1. Cowlitz County Sheriff Bill Mahoney and Yakima County Sheriff Ken Irwin are scheduled to testify against the bill for WSSA.

**SB 6573**, increasing revenue for public safety by expanding benefits to LEOFF Plan 2 law enforcement and fire fighters, is being heard in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Monday, February 4, at 3:30 p.m.

## **Contaminated Vehicles**

**HB 2817** required counties and cities to prohibit use, demolish or dispose of methamphetamine contaminated vehicles or vessels. There is no local government fiscal note on file but the bill gives responsibility for the vehicle or vessel to the local health officer or law enforcement. It does require property owners to bear the cost of disposal. **HB 2817** has been heard and is set for executive action on Tuesday, February 5, at either 8:00 a.m. or 8:00 p.m. as time permits.

## **Sex Offender Legislation**

Last week, the House heard many of the 34 sex offender bills dropped this session and this week the Senate joined in and held hearings on a number of bills related to offenders. **HB 2644**, heard in the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness committee on January 30, prohibits certain sex offenders on community custody from accessing the internet. On January 29, the Senate Human Services and Corrections committee heard **SB 6373**, which creates a new criminal offense prohibiting viewing of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Testimony from the

state Attorney General's office explained how this bill will allow prosecutors to more easily bring cases against people who view child pornography. The companion bill, [HB 2566](#), was heard in the House last week. The House Human Services committee heard [HB 2756](#) which requires DSHS to maintain a log of phone calls made by sexually violent predators who are housed at the special commitment center on McNeil Island. We continue to monitor the bills and will see which of the many bills come out of committees next week.

## **Gang Task Force**

In 2007, the Legislature passed legislation that required the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to establish a work group to evaluate the problem of gang-related crime in Washington. [HB 2712/SB 6608](#) address the recommendations of the task force with provisions that include: Requires the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to issue a request for proposal to implement five pilot projects designed to prevent, intervene, and suppress street gangs and gang violence and appropriates \$10 million for the purpose; Requires Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to establish a gang grant program and appropriates \$2 million for the purpose; Requires WASPC to establish a grant program to support local graffiti and tagging abatement programs and appropriates \$1 million for the purpose; Requires the Washington State Patrol to create a statewide, multi-agency, information sharing gang database. [HB 2712](#) was heard in the House last week and [SB 6608](#) was heard in Senate Judiciary on January 30. Those testifying in support of the legislation include representatives of the sheriffs and police chiefs, prosecutors and public defenders.

## **Alternatives to Confinement for Offenders**

[SB 6702](#) provides for nonviolent and non sex offenders the option to complete a state-certified inpatient or intensive outpatient treatment program. Upon completion, each day of participation in such program may be substituted for one day of total confinement. [SB 6702](#) will be heard February 8 in the Senate Judiciary committee.

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# ***Elections, Licensing & Recordings***

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## **Special Elections (Auditors/WACO Request)**

County Auditors testified before the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee this week on [SB 5271](#), modifying when a special election may be held. The goal of this bill is to reduce the number of special elections from four to two. Joining Secretary of State Sam Reed testifying in favor of the measure were Yakima County Auditor Corky Mattingly and Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey.

The Auditors have worked hard on this bill, bringing the stakeholders to the table, and in the last year have come a long way. Those with concerns over the bill last year were the School Directors' Association, the School Administrators' Association, the Fire Commissioners' Association, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington Education Association (WEA). Auditors' Legislative Committee co-chairs Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County, and Corky Mattingly, Yakima County, have spoken to all of the parties involved right up until the hearing on Tuesday. At this point, all of the parties except WEA have lent their support to the bill. A major factor in the turnaround by these organizations was the passage of an amendment to the Constitution by voters last November to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy, rather than a super majority.

It looks as though the dates for the special elections will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in April. There is also talk of moving the resolution for a special election from 52 days prior to the election date to 45 days prior.

## **Hearing Schedule of Interest to County Auditors**

Next week's hearings include [SB 6199](#), requiring prepaid postage on absentee ballot return forms and [SB 6778](#), election day voter registration. Please join your Legislative Committee co-chairs at these hearings if at all possible. If you can't make it, call your Senators and Representatives and weigh in on these issues and others.

#### Monday, February 4

10:00 a.m., SHR2

#### **Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee**

**SB 6199**, requiring counties to include prepaid postage on absentee ballot return forms.

8:00 p.m., HHRD

#### **House State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee**

**HB 3159**, improving voter registration integrity.

#### Tuesday, February 5

1:30 p.m., SHR2

#### **Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee**

**SB 6555**, requiring notification to the secretary of state when a person summoned for jury service does not meet the qualifications of a juror.

#### Thursday, February 7

3:30 p.m., SHR 2

**SB 6778**, allowing voter registration up to and on election day.

**SB 6000**, allowing ranked choice voting by cities and local taxing districts.

### **New Pierce County Election Center - Three Grand Openings in One Event**

There is much to love about Pierce County's newest facility -- and not just that its official opening will occur on Valentine's Day. The Annex West at 2501 S. 35th St., adjacent to the Pierce County Annex, is the new home of the Auditor's Election Center, the General Services Division and the Sheriff's property storage room.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 14 will be followed by an open house and public tours. "We are hoping citizens take advantage of this opportunity to go behind the scenes and see important county operations," said Facilities Management Director Bret Carlstad, whose department was responsible for the \$6.7 million project to remodel the former home of Corporate Express Document & Print Management Inc.

The project encompasses the south half of the facility, totaling 56,451 square feet. The north half houses Pierce County Emergency Management and an Emergency Operations Center that will become operational this spring.

The Elections Center features what is termed a "public viewing corridor concept" that provides visitors an increased level of openness to the election processes while preserving the necessary level of security. The center includes updated technologies for handling mail-in ballots. Up to 50 employees, including a number of part-timers, will work in the center.

"The move has already provided some wonderful opportunities," said Auditor Pat McCarthy. "We now have a One Stop Shop for election services. The facility has state of the art security while at the same time provides the public a transparent view of our processes. It is a new day for Pierce County elections and good timing in preparation for the 2008 election season."

The new facility enabled what Elections Manager Lori Augino calls a "marriage of our full-time staff with our seasonal staff that supports voter registration, vote by mail and polling place activity . . . The Presidential Primary is under way, and we will be conducting this election from our new facility. We also have March, April and May elections just around the corner."

In June candidates for office will file in the new Elections Center. August brings the Primary Election, and the Presidential Election will be held in November.

General Services, which maintains the County's archived records and provides interdepartmental mail distribution, occupies 14,760 square feet of new office and warehouse space. General Services works daily with every County

department, and staff is happy to be more centrally located. "We love it here - we don't feel quite so isolated in our new location," said Tammie Carson, records management coordinator.

A division of the Budget and Finance Department, General Services processes more than 2 million pieces of mail annually for County departments and handles interdepartmental mail distribution. Three couriers provide pickup and delivery service to more than 150 worksites. Nine employees work there.

"All three divisions were previously housed in leased facilities," Carlstad said. "Providing County-owned locations allows the space to be tailored for specific functions. Security is important for all three, and housing them in a single secure structure meets that requirement very well."

A centralized data, communications and security room equipped with state of the art technology serves the three divisions. A centralized loading dock also is provided.

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## ***Environment, Land Use & Resources***

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### **Climate Change**

A draft **PSHB 2797** Local Solutions to Climate Change/GMA –addresses the impacts of climate change through the growth management act is being proposed that has four base components:

1. Still adds a new "Climate Change" goal. WSAC remains opposed to this item.
2. Directs CTED to develop advisory climate change response methodologies and estimates to assist counties and cities. Establish support for and/or a requirement that currently available computer software available to Counties to evaluate a community's carbon emission "footprint" be modified to include other components, such as current and future vehicle miles traveled.
3. Creates a "Global Warming Mitigation and Adaptation Program" for CTED to fund at least three cities and three counties.
4. Directs CTED to report back to the Governor and the Legislature on how cities and counties are addressing climate change issues, other possible measures that cities and counties could utilize in land use and transportation planning.

This bill will be up for executive session action in House Local Government next week.

### **Building Codes**

**HB 2767** Exempts agriculture structures from building code requirements. WSAC opposes this state preemption and continues to note that the International Building Code provides this authority to each legislative authority.

### **Housing/Land Use**

**SHB 2344** relates to preserving rail corridors and requires a city or county's comprehensive plan to include an inventory of active and inactive rail corridors and provide for the preservation of rail corridors for future rail use.

**SHB 2683** creates an affordable housing for all program, that allows counties an opt in provision planning program for housing as well as contains WSAC's legislative priority for a JLARC study of the Growth Management Act. This bill has been passed by House Housing Committee.

Bills to change Washington's Vesting Laws (**HB 3202/SB 6784**) have now been heard in both the House and the Senate. WSAC had taken no position but is monitoring it and may seek Legislative Steering Committee direction.

## Natural Resource Issues

**HB 3309** is scheduled for hearing on Monday, February 4, at 1:30 pm. The companion bill in the Senate, **SB 6874**, is scheduled for hearing on Tuesday, February 5, at 10:00 am. These bills implement the agreement negotiated between Department of Ecology, Bureau of Reclamation, Colville Confederated Tribes, and the Spokane Tribe in support of the Lake Roosevelt drawdown. The drawdown is an agreement to allow Lake Roosevelt to be drawn down an extra foot each year, providing an additional 82,500 AF of water for a variety of users. In drought years, an additional 50,000 AF would be released. The bill provides a one time payment of \$2 million to local governments adjacent to Lake Roosevelt to offset negative impacts. The criteria for distributing the funding is to be developed by Ecology in consultation with the affected local governments. Some counties in the affected area have expressed concern about the one time payment, when needs may be longer term. Discussion is ongoing by County Commissioners.

### Forestry Measures

A wide variety of forestry related bills were heard this week in both the House and Senate. The Senate Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation Committee considered the following bills:

**SB 6233**: Creates a five member working forest land board to protect and enhance the working forest land base through a loan and grant program. Representatives from the timber industry expressed some concerns over the bill but it was supported by environmentalists and received qualified support from the DNR, although its \$10 million appropriation seems a bit of reach in this tight budget cycle.

**SB 6679** was Sen. Jim Hargrove's attempt to help the timber industry through the establishment of a cap and trade greenhouse gas emission control system which would reduce pollution through market forces. The bill would also recognize the valuable contribution made by working forests and in the words of the sponsor "change behavior through economic incentive." The bill was opposed by Director Of Ecology Jay Manning who expressed his concern while acknowledging the value of the bill. He stated the bill would inhibit negotiations on the Western Climate Initiative, a top priority for the Governor. He feared that language in the bill could unreasonably tie the negotiators hands. All parties seemed to agree that carbon sequestration would be "front and center" in the future regional negotiations.

**SB 6469** is the Evergreen Cities bill pushed by the environmental community. The Senate Committee heard the bill in its original form—a stark contrast to the "evolving" measure moving through the House. Local governments, particularly cities and counties, have expressed concern over the unfunded mandates in the original bill.

**SB 6088** is a measure which would change DNR trust management policies by prohibiting the acquisition and retention of commercial properties. The bill was pulled from the agenda due to time constraints and opposition from DNR and WSAC.

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee also heard a series of bills dealing with forestry related issues:

**HB 2893**: Expanding the composition of the Forest Practices Board to include a labor member representing a timber related union.

**HB 2910**: Establishing a task force on specialized forest products.

**HB 2908**: Expanding the eligibility and enhancing the budget process for grants from the Forest Riparian Easement program.

### Ocean Resources

The Senate Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation Committee heard three bills dealing with off shore, near shore and ocean resource issues:

**SB 6227** Provides support and resources to outer coast marine resource committees. The bill was supported by WSAC. Key testimony was provided by Grays Harbor County Commissioner Al Carter. Another strong proponent of the bill was Island County Commissioner Kevin Ranker who was unable to attend the hearing but provided a letter of support. Two related measures were also heard at the same hearing: **SB 6231** which improves the coordination of marine protected

areas and **SB 5213** which promoted coordinated ocean management policies. Committee members seemed supportive of **SB 6227** but recognized the difficulty in obtaining full funding for the proposal. Committee Chair Ken Jacobsen remained fully committed to the effort and reminded his fellow members how long he had worked on these issues.

**Next Week:**

Senate and House committees will examine funding for the proposed Columbia River water agreement between the state, two NE Washington Tribes and affected counties.

Non budget related bills need to pass out of their committee of origin by February 5 to stay alive for the session.

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## **General Government Issues**

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### **Passports – Three Ways to Come Home...**

*The following article was submitted by Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods. Siri says, "The song says "there must be 50 ways to leave your lover" but only three ways to get back in." Many county clerks process passport applications in their offices. The following is her recap of new passport and license provisions.*

1. Passport: Same as always, but apparently the execution fee will be reduced to \$25.00.
2. New Passport Card: From what I have been able to read the new passport card applications will be executed by County Clerks and the applications will be provided to us some time in February. The Execution Fee will also be \$25.00. The printed materials say that the card may not be used to travel by air. It will otherwise carry the rights and privileges of the U.S. Passport book and will be adjudicated to the exact same standards. It has the same validity period of 10 years for adults and five years for children 15 years and younger. For adults who already have a passport book, they may apply for the card as a passport renewal and pay only \$20.00. First time applicants will pay \$45.00 for the adult cards and \$35.00 for the childrens' cards. It is intended to facilitate the frequent travel of U.S. citizens living in border communities and to meet DHS's operational needs at land borders. The passport card will contain a vicinity-read radio frequency identification (FRID) chip. This chip will link the card to a stored record in secure government databases. No personal information is written to the FRID chip itself (says "big brother"). From the appearance on the web, it does not look like photographs of users will be used. (If it is lost, how can they tell who is using it?) Maybe it says to whom it is issued and they check to see that the user has that i.d. It meets the requirements of Homeland Security so I guess they probably figured that one out. For more information go to <http://travel.state.gov/>.
3. New Enhanced Drivers License: Can be used at land and sea ports. Starting January 2008, the new enhanced drivers' licenses will be issued by the Washington State Department of Licensing (EDL/ID). The cost will be \$15.00 more than a regular driver's license or identification card. To get one, you make an appointment at one of the office locations that are issuing them which are designated at [www.dol.wa.gov](http://www.dol.wa.gov). Applicants must provide documentation to prove U.S. citizenship, identity and Washington State residency. They must provide their social security number and have a digital photo taken, along with an interview with a Licensing Service Representative. It, too, is RFID and is not to contain personal information about the applicant. Washington State is the first in the nation to create a viable solution to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requiring people traveling into the U.S. to present a valid passport. The requirements for air travel went into effect in January 2007 and for land and sea border crossing, the passport requirements will start in early 2008.

**CLERKS NEED TO KNOW THAT IF A PERSON LOSES THEIR DRIVING PRIVILEGE IN COURT WE ARE TO PUNCH THE CARD IN THE TREE THAT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE TOP RIGHT CORNER OF THE LICENSE.**

**Minors:** Minors under age 16 are expected to be exempt from WHTI and will only be required to present a certified birth certificate for re-entry into the U.S. The notice says that if you are under 18 years of age and your parent or guardian provides proof of your identity, you may use your parent or guardian's address to prove you are a Washington State

resident. Your parent or guardian must live in Washington State and have a Washington State driver's license or ID card, or present acceptable documents to prove residency. (Whatever all that means about minors).

Biometric Identification: Digital technology to identify individuals based on their unique physical features will be used in this process.

For more information on this go to [www.dol.wa.gov](http://www.dol.wa.gov).

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## **Public Health & Human Services**

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### **Clarification of Local Option Tax**

In 2005, the Legislature enacted **SB 5763** the Omnibus Treatment of Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders Act of 2005, granting counties the legislative authority to authorize a levy of 1/10 of 1 percent sales tax to fund new and expanded therapeutic courts for dependency proceedings and new and expanded mental health and chemical dependency treatment services. **SB 6791** clarifies the permitted uses of funding collected by this increase to the local sales and use tax. Under **SB 6791** funding can be used for the operation and delivery of programs and services for new or expanded therapeutic courts and/or mental health and chemical dependency treatment. Services that can be funded include, but are not limited to, case management, treatment services and housing. These "wrap-around" services are often vital to the success of a treatment program. The non-supplant language in current law is also clarified to pertain to only state funding. Moneys collected under **SB 5763** can be used to replace lost federal funding in these areas.

### **Regional Support Network Bill heard in the Senate**

This week the Senate Human Services and Corrections committee heard **SB 6404**, the companion bill to **HB 2750**. The legislative intent stated in **SB 6404** is to provide flexibility to DSHS in the event that an existing Regional Support Network (RSN) will no longer be contracting to provide services. The bill allows private entities to contract as RSNs; states that an RSN that voluntarily terminates its contract is prohibited from serving as an RSN in the future; and requires 180 notice of intent to terminate a contract as an RSN. WSAC testified in opposition to a number of provisions in the bill.

### **Developmental Disabilities Bills heard in House and Senate**

The House Human Services committee had a packed house on January 30 for a hearing on five bills. There were four pages of people signed up to testify in support of **HB 2900**, sponsored by Representative Dickerson, which provides for DSHS to contract with counties to provide early learning intervention services for children with developmental disabilities. There was no testimony against the bill. **SB 6713**, the companion bill sponsored by Senator Kauffman, will be heard February 6, at 8:00 a.m. in Senate Health and Long-Term Care.

Other bills heard at the 6:00 p.m. hearing included; **HB 2784**, related to the intensive case management and integrated crisis response pilot programs and **HB 3078**, to establish lifelong service programs for persons with developmental disabilities. The Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education hearing on January 28 also had a number of developmental disabilities related bills on the agenda. Bills heard included **SB 6313**, recognizing disability history in the public education system and some bills related to students with autism including; **SB 6742**, which requires development of programs and guidelines for students with autism; and **SB 6388** which creates pilot programs for learning disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder.

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# Transportation & Public Works

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## Eminent Domain Legislation Still Alive

**HB 2016**, sponsored by Representative Springer (D-Kirkland) is on the House floor calendar and could be voted on at any time. The contents of the legislation was the primary discussion of the Attorney General's Eminent Domain Task Force, but that process did not produce consensus legislation. Representative Springer shared his first draft of a striking amendment and WSAC offered its comments and suggestions. There are four elements to the legislation:

- Imposes the requirement that other reasonable alternatives proposed by the condemnee be considered by the condemnor prior to any final action on the condemnation. Consensus that was reached that alternatives requiring additional NEPA/SEPA review need not be considered. WSAC offered several other types of alternatives that should also be excluded such as those negatively impacting cultural resources or are not economically feasible. WSAC also asked for language to ensure that this is a procedural requirement and not a cause of action for a court to determine the "best" alternative.
- Eliminates the \$750 cap on fees for condemnees to evaluate a condemnor's offer. In its place, condemnees would be entitled to reasonable appraiser fees. WSAC asked to reinstate a cap on fees, and at the very least, require that the appraiser be licensed as such as a condition on the fees.
- Includes a provision to allow condemnees a right of repurchase if the condemned property is to be surplus. WSAC has taken a position supporting a buy back right. Our comments were limited to technical changes on the process to resolve disputes on the purchase price of the property. WSAC also asked that when federal law or rules govern the disposal of property, this provision is effective only to the extent it is consistent with those laws and rules.
- Prohibits the use of eminent domain when the purpose is substantially to increase the tax base, increase employment, or to be resold to a private party. WSAC requested that this language only apply when counties are using their police powers and not affect any enumerated powers.

## Transportation News

Representative Clibburn and Senator Haugen have jokingly noted that this session's transportation issues are focused on the three "F's"-- "Ferries, Floods and Freezing" -- in recognition of the ferry system, the December floods and the January freeze/snow and the significant impact these events are having on our movement of goods, services and people.

This coming week the discussion turns back to Regional Transportation governance with the Senate scheduled to hear **SB 6772**. In addition, the Regional Transportation Improvement District is proposed to be repealed (**SB 6771**). **SB 6772** will do the following:

- Expand existing Regional Transit Authority ("Sound Transit") and rename as Regional Transportation Authority
- Expand project eligibility: both roads and transit
- New governance board (12 members): six elected within King, Pierce, Snohomish; one elected at-large within three-county boundary; three appointed by county executives; WSDOT Secretary (non-voting); Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director (non-voting)
- Majority elected board: seven elected and five appointed/designated
- Broad revenue options: combined roads and transit revenue, not limited by modal or subarea equity
- No MPO/RTPO function: (Puget Sound Regional Council retains existing charter, but Executive Director sits on new entity)
- Boundaries: Existing ST boundaries
- Counties outside of Central Puget Sound may create an RTA

**State Route 520 Floating Bridge:** **HB 3096** outlines the financing plan for the replacement of the State Route 520 Floating Bridge. This bill allows the Department of Transportation to collect tolls on the existing SR 520 Bridge or on a replacement 520 bridge. It also requires the executive director of the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Secretary of

WSDOT (or designee), and a state transportation commission member from King County to form a State Route 520 tolling Implementation Committee.

**County Bridges:** SB 6808/HB 2969 will require counties and cities to maintain, replace, or appropriate funds for bridges deemed to be “especially deficient.” This bill requires if a county (or city) that has a bridge with a rating of nine or less (out of 100), the state treasurer would be required to withhold 25% of their state gas tax revenues until enough revenue is accrued to fund 50% of the estimated cost to replace the bridge or rehabilitated at a rating of 80 or better. WSAC opposes this bill and was joined with King County’s Linda Doherty in testifying in opposition. The County Road Administration Board also expressed concern over the program administration requirements and policy implications.

**Concurrency:** SB 6566/HB 2950 address the issue of Concurrency and Impact Fees for Transportation Purposes. Basically, this bill states that the payment of impact fees would constitute an acceptable strategy for meeting concurrency. WSAC is working to allow a county to make this determination and not preempt our local decision making authority.

**Bidding:** PSSB 6235 is a bill to change the method to secure consulting, architectural, engineering, or other services via competitive bidding. The proposed substitute is a substantial improvement to the initial bill introduced. Most significantly, the proposed substitute adds other construction-related services to the services that governmental agencies must publicly announce requirements for and negotiate contracts for on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required and at fair and reasonable prices.

Other construction-related services are defined as consultant services provided by any person, other than as an employee of the agency, in connection with a furtherance of any public work, including project management, construction supervision, construction management, land surveying, environmental services, technical testing, and inspection services. Other construction-related services do not include legal services, accounting or auditing services, claims consultant services, or other similar services that may be required in connection with any public work.

**Tolling:** SHB 1773/SSB 6355 are moving with both the House and the Senate Transportation committees passing; it is expected that the House bill will serve as the vehicle to move this policy forward. This legislation establishes the policy framework for the imposition of tolls on state-owned facilities. Either the Legislature or the Transportation Commission (if so delegated) can impose tolls, including variable pricing, on a facility or corridor. All revenue from a tolled facility or corridor must be used only to improve, preserve, or operate the facility or corridor on or in which it is collected

**TIB:** Since the early 1990s, counties that wished to transfer a county road to a state highway, or petition for a state highway to become a county road would require Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) approval. This legislation, HB 2502, proposes to transfer this authority to the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC). WSAC Supports.

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## ***Boards & Commissions***

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### **Apply Now for County Openings on Statewide Boards and Commissions**

The following positions on statewide boards and commissions are available to County Commissioners, Council members or Executives. The WSAC Board will either nominate or appoint representatives according to statute at their March 27 regular meeting.

To apply for any of the seats, complete the short online interest form **by March 17** at <http://www.wacounties.org/WSAC/boards.asp>.

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext. 112 or [mzahrly@wacounties.org](mailto:mzahrly@wacounties.org).

**Traffic Safety Commission** – Serves at the pleasure of the Governor

Preference for this position will be given for current or past involvement in your local Community Traffic Safety Task Force, a Corridor Traffic Safety project or other efforts to improve traffic safety in your community. The opening was created when Snohomish Councilman Kirke Sievers stepped down from his seat in December.  
<http://www.wtsc.wa.gov/about/default.php>

**Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee** – Eastside Alternate  
[http://emd.wa.gov/e911/e911\\_advisory\\_committee.shtml](http://emd.wa.gov/e911/e911_advisory_committee.shtml)

## **Recent Appointments to Statewide Boards and Commissions**

The WSAC Executive Committee has appointed Ramiro Chavez, Pierce County Project Engineering Manager, to the County Design Standards Committee.

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# ***Training & Upcoming Events***

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## **Washington Counties – [Full Calendar of Events](#)**

### **Medicolegal Death Investigator Training, April 21-25, 2008**

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor, coroner, medical examiner and law enforcement personnel. This course will assist the investigator in preparing for the National Certification examination process.

The purpose of this course is to provide basic training in the field of medicolegal death investigation. This course is intended for individuals who are employed as investigators for medical examiner, coroner, or prosecutor/coroner offices, and for law enforcement personnel who support these agencies by functioning as medicolegal death investigators. The course utilizes the training text *Medicolegal Death Investigator*, by S.C. Clark, et. al and covers the eight general areas outlined in the text. Those areas include: Interacting with Federal, State, and Local Agencies; Communicating; Interacting with Families; Investigation Deaths, Identifying and Preserving Evidence; Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities; Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge; and Coping with Job-Related Stress. The concepts presented will provide a basic background to investigate most all deaths. In addition, there will be discussion of the investigation of sudden unexplained infant deaths. The course includes both didactic and practical sessions. This training is intended to prepare the medicolegal death investigator to apply for registry certification.

A registration form is attached to this journal.

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## ***Good Things***

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### **Ben Holland to Retire**

*by Charlie Bermant, Port Orchard Independent, January 28, 2008*

Kitsap County will lose a valuable resource this spring when Administrative Services Director Ben Holland retires.

“I love this job,” he said. “I like the people who work for me and I like the people I work for. I think I’ve done some good things, keeping the board informed about the budget. But retiring at this time has always been my long-term plan.”

Holland, 62, was hired in 2004 in his current position. Previously he was Kitsap County budget manager from 1994 to 2000. In between his county stints, he was the director of the Port of Brownsville. Holland gave an extended notice to give the county commissioners a chance to hire a replacement. The hiring process will probably include a redefinition of

the job itself.

“Ben does so much,” said North Kitsap Commissioner Steve Bauer. “It really is hard to capture it all. He has an encyclopedic memory, and when he is gone all of this will be lost. In addition to this, there is all the work he has done with the systems and bringing the budget together. I don’t know how he managed to do the whole thing.” Bauer said the commissioners would reorganize and redefine the job.

In his current job Holland spearheaded and organized the budget cutting process, which required each county department to cut a certain amount of full-time employees. Throughout, the county cut \$4 million and submitted the first balanced budget in more than a decade. The job wasn’t done, and the county will need to make significant additional cuts during the next budget cycle.

While Holland’s systems will stay in place someone else will be in the driver’s seat this year.

“He did a great job implementing the cuts,” said Kitsap County Auditor Karen Flynn. “He showed that each department has its responsibilities. It is always tough to cut positions, but he delivered the message with sincerity, fairness and evenhandedness. “He is a hardworking person who really strives to get the clear messages out,” Flynn said. “He is an extraordinary public servant.”

Prior to the budget crisis Holland developed a Power Point presentation titled “Property Tax 101” that explained how taxes were collected and spent. He gave the presentation at several public meetings and to any civic group that asked.

“Ben worked hard to educate the public,” said Kitsap County Assessor Jim Avery. “He has been very generous in giving to different community groups, and helped to get the point across that the county doesn’t get all of the property tax money.”

Avery said Holland’s presentations were valuable, since they allowed attendees to develop more informed opinions.

Holland and Avery made an agreement in 2005 that they would shave their heads if the county met its United Way goal.

After the money was raised the hair was shorn in a public ceremony, presided by Avery’s hairstylist wife.

Holland said he has no strict plans for his retirement, while the options include going to school, teaching school and learning a foreign language.

“The thing that I worry about most is that I have no hobbies,” he said.

*Ben Holland is currently the President of the Washington County Administrative Association. We wish Ben the best of luck when he enters this new chapter of his life!*

## **San Juan County Unveils New Website; Set to Open New Legislative Building**

Visit the new and improved San Juan County website:

<http://www.sanjuanco.com/>

*Legislative Building grand opening Feb. 5 - by Jessica Murdy, San Juan Journal, Jan. 29, 2007*

The County Council’s new digs will be showcased at the Feb. 5 grand opening celebration of the Legislative Building in Friday Harbor.

The recently remodeled two-story building and its 9,000-plus square feet of office space are now home to the administrative branch of San Juan County, the Elections Department and the offices and hearing room of the County Council. It’s located directly across from the county courthouse at the intersection of Reed and Second streets.

Purchased two years ago by the county for \$1.7 million, it was at that time known as the Carlson Building and hosted nearly a dozen businesses and public agencies, including Countrywide Home Loans, Planned Parenthood, a beauty salon, several attorneys and the local office of the Department of Social and Health Services. Those agencies and businesses have since relocated.

The Feb. 5 festivities begin at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a grand opening celebration at noon. The event is open to the public.

As part of the building's \$500,000 renovation, the ground floor was gutted and much of the interior altered to allow for the influx of county personnel and elected officials. The council hearing room features improved acoustics, a retractable video screen and enhanced video and recording equipment installed as part of the building's \$500,000 renovation.

The relocation of personnel and elected officials into the Legislative Building is part of a larger plan to alleviate overcrowding in the 100-year-old county courthouse. The council's former office space will be used by District Court administration; the council's former hearing room will be converted into a courtroom that can accommodate a jury (the county currently has only one).

In addition, the Legislative Building may well serve as a bridge that brings the Town of Friday Harbor and the county closer together. Friday Harbor's Town Council and citizen committees and advisory panels are expected to share the County Council hearing room as part of a pending agreement, the details of which have yet to be finalized. Negotiations between the town and county for shared use of the building continue.

## *Almost Time for Washington Counties Scholarships!*

County elected officials and employees who have students in their families take note! The Washington Counties' Scholarship Fund is offering five \$3,000 awards to children of county employees who will be enrolled full-time during the 2008-2009 school year in a baccalaureate program, associate degree program or vocational/technical certification program.

On **FEBRUARY 15th**, complete information and applications will be available on the web at <http://wacounties.org/waco/>. We encourage all students to apply!

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# Attachments

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## Welcome to the U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency

**(U.S. Communities) website** <http://www.uscommunities.org/>

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the

### U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities)

Designed in cooperation with an Advisory Board of local government purchasing officials, U.S. Communities pools the purchasing power of public agencies, achieves bulk volume discounts on behalf of public agencies, competitively solicits quality products through a lead public agency and provides a purchasing forum for public agencies nationwide.

You can obtain information on how to contact all U.S. Communities suppliers by telephoning (866) 472-7467 or by sending an email to [info@uscommunities.org](mailto:info@uscommunities.org)

**U.S. Communities | 2175 North California Blvd., Suite 550, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**(866) 472-7467 | [info@uscommunities.org](mailto:info@uscommunities.org)**

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"Results from our internal customer satisfaction survey show that our customers want two things from Purchasing. First save us time in the procurement process and second save us money. When Kansas City, Missouri uses a U.S. Communities contract we save both time and money for our customers."

**Ray Burnett,  
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies  
Kansas City, MO.**



# Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners

## WACME Class Registration

### MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATOR TRAINING

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor, coroner, medical examiner and law enforcement personnel. This course will assist the investigator in preparing for the National Certification examination process.

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide basic training in the field of medicolegal death investigation. This course is intended for individuals who are employed as investigators for medical examiner, coroner, or prosecutor/coroner offices, and for law enforcement personnel who support these agencies by functioning as medicolegal death investigators. The course utilizes the training text *Medicolegal Death Investigator*, by S.C. Clark, et. al and covers the eight general areas outlined in the text. Those areas include: Interacting with Federal, State, and Local Agencies; Communicating; Interacting with Families; Investigation Deaths, Identifying and Preserving Evidence; Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities; Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge; and Coping with Job-Related Stress. The concepts presented will provide a basic background to investigate most all deaths. In addition, there will be discussion of the investigation of sudden unexplained infant deaths. The course includes both didactic and practical sessions. This training is intended to prepare the medicolegal death investigator to apply for registry certification.

Registry certification for medicolegal death investigators can be obtained through The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Inc. (<http://www.slu.edu/organizations/abmdi/>). This is the basic level of certification. Investigators who have demonstrated the skills to successfully complete registry certification and meet the board's requirements may apply for a higher level of certification in the future when this becomes available. The purpose of certification is to demonstrate that the investigator has the necessary knowledge and skills to perform medicolegal death investigations.

Space is limited. Priority will be given to Coroner, Medical Examiner, and Prosecutor/Coroner personnel. All others wishing to register will be allowed as space provides. *Attendees must attend the entire session to receive training credit.*

**Cost:** Training Course is being provided by WACME and no fee is required.

**Registration:** Contact Kathie with WACO, send to 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.  
Email: [khouts@wacounties.org](mailto:khouts@wacounties.org), Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

**Training Date:** April 21-25, 2008

**Training Location:** \*Red Lion Hotel - Kelso, 510 Kelso Drive, Kelso, Washington, 98626

**Lodging:** A block of non-smoking rooms is being held at the hotel at a special rate of \$99.00 plus tax. Registrants are required to make their own reservations. Reservations phone: 1-360-578-4006.

**\*Directions to Hotel:** *From Seattle* Take I-5 South to the WA-4 EXIT 39 toward Kelso. Turn LEFT onto Allen Street/WA-4 and continue to follow Allen Street. Turn RIGHT onto S. Kelso Drive. *From Portland* take I-5 North towards Seattle (crossing into Washington); take the WA-4 exit – EXIT 39 – toward Kelso/Longview. Turn RIGHT onto Allen Street, turn RIGHT onto S. Kelso Drive.

# Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

April 21-25, 2008

## PREREGISTRATION:

*Preregistration is required.*

Please complete this application and send to:

WACO, Attn: Kathie Houts, 206 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia WA 98501

[khouts@wacounties.org](mailto:khouts@wacounties.org)

Phone: (360) 753-7319

Fax: (360) 664-2812

## GENERAL COURSE APPLICATION

Applicants Name (Last)		(First)	(Middle)
Title/Rank:	Social Security Number (last four):	Agency:	
Agency Mailing Address: (Street or PO Box)		(City)	(State) (Zip)
Agency Phone:	Agency Fax:	Email Address:	

## Additional Applicants

Applicants Name:	Rank:	Last four numbers of Social Security Number:

**NOTE FOR PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: PLEASE INDICATE ON THIS FORM IF YOU ARE A DEPUTY CORONER. Reimbursement will be paid to Coroners, Medical Examiners, Prosecutor/Coroners and staff for lodging, per diem and mileage.**