

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

**March 10, 2008
Issue No. 9**

*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

Budget, Finance & Taxes

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

**Elections, Licensing
& Recording**

**Environment, Land Use
& Resources**

General Government

**Public Health &
Human Services**

**Transportation &
Public Works**

Boards & Commissions

**Training &
Upcoming Events**

Courthouse Ramblings

Good Things

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

Be Among the Winners!

Dependent children of county employees have three more weeks to apply for a Washington Counties Scholarship.

Ashley Culp, a 2004 scholarship recipient, will graduate *magna cum laude* this spring from WSU with a BS in Animal Science and a 3.72 grade point average. She has been admitted to the WSU School of Veterinary Science. Ashley graduated from Omak High School and is the daughter of Christopher Culp, an Okanogan County employee. Congratulations, Ashley!

Applications for the 2008 awards are available at www.wacounties.org and one is attached to this Courthouse Journal. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2008.

Want to post a job announcement on our website ?

Visit <http://wacounties.org/>

And click on the job pages for format & submission details.

The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the

Washington Association of County Officials

(WACO) wacounties.org/waco

and the Washington State Association of Counties

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

WACO - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director

Christina Bridston, Deputy Director

Robin Chase, Financial Operations Manager

Bob Carlton, Research Associate

Kathleen Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director

Policy

Eric Johnson, Assistant Executive Director

Rashi Gupta, Policy Director

Julie Murray, Policy Director

Jeff Killip, WSALPHO Managing Director

Brad Banks, Policy Analyst

Operations – Finance & Technology

Trina Bannister, Finance Director

Barbara Warden, Finance Specialist

Justin Kerrihard, Technology Manager

Operations – Member Services

Michelle Zahrly, Communications/Member Services Director

Ginni Peppert, Member Services Coordinator/Event Planner

Beth Dubey, Member Services Assistant

Program Contractors

Neil Aaland, Columbia River Program Manager

Tom Robinson, Timber Program Manager

Tonia Sugarman, County Training Institute Project Manager (CPO)

Washington State Sheriffs' Association February 5, 2008



Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Bills that have Passed That Affect Property Tax or Assessments:

HB 1149 - Eliminates advance property tax payments for binding site plans.

SSB 5256 will let Veterans not count their disability income when applying for either a senior exemption or disability exemption from property tax. It is a really simple bill, and does not change in any way the “levels” of exemption. Nor does this bill allow a “double dip” effect by raising the income level and then also exempting the income. A pretty good bill and easy to handle. The downside of course is that it will cause a shift of tax responsibility to others under our Budget Based Property Tax system.

ESB 6641 concerns multiyear LID lifts. If you recall, there was quite a furor over LID Lifts as allowed because the public had no way of knowing that they were in fact permanent. This statute corrects that flaw. The only problem is that we still have those in the pipeline from prior votes that will not be affected by this statute. It is effective from the time that the Governor signs it into law, and is not retroactive.

Now for the portion of what is still circling in the shark tank:

SSB 6609 started out badly, was amended, and now is feasible to administer. Initially the bill would have exempted specialty agricultural building from building permits. Those folks in the Assessor’s Offices across the State live and die every year on building permits to pick up new construction value. They have since amended the bill, permits are required, and it is circling waiting for a vote.

SB 6912, on the other hand, is maybe not so good. It raises the senior income levels by \$5,000 across the board, changes percentage of house value exempt from 35% to 50%, and raises the cap from \$70,000 in house value to \$100,000. The problem with this bill is that it is “one size fits all.” Our various county median incomes and house values don’t fit that mold. This will hurt many Central and Eastern Washington cities and towns--basically, any area without a large sales tax base. Quite obviously we have reached a “tipping point” on exemptions. Our hugely disparate house values and wage rates between the west Side and east Side are haunting us on these exemptions. Perhaps the time has come where we need to realize this and deal with it. We should base exemption levels on either an area basis or a per county basis and tie it to median county income

WACO/Assessors Priority Bills Die Slow Death

HB 2609, digital imagery, sailed through the House and Senate, until it hit the Senate Rules Committee. Obviously someone in Rules did not like the bill and it died.

HB 2611, annual revaluation, showed strong support from a vast variety of folks. The problem was that money to fund it became nonexistent. Everybody still says what a great idea, but no one has the money. As of this writing it is probably dead for this session.

County Treasurers’ Cleanup Bill

The Treasurers’/WACO request bill, SHB 2986, cleaning up various statutes with regard to collecting taxes, refunding of taxes and archaic language, died on the Senate calendar Friday without having been brought up for consideration.

Inheritance/Tax Exemption

SSB 6851, concerning the documentation required in order to obtain a real estate excise tax exemption at the time of inheritance, was on the House floor calendar, but died with the cutoff.

Initiative 960 Strikes Again

After several long days on the floor, the House Appropriations Committee heard HB 3381, an act related to state program fees, Friday evening. The state offers hundreds of permit, license, and inspection services to the public and industries on

a cost-recovery basis. In years past, the budget assumed that these fees would increase as the cost for the service increased. However, Initiative 960 requires any new fee or fee increase to be adopted by the Legislature.

This requirement, along with Initiative 960's requirement of a 10-year projection of the impact on taxpayers be issued in a press release, has generated much controversy in the Capitol. Stakeholders are uncertain whether their fee will be increased in the budget, [HB 3381](#), and other separate bills. It is important to note that Initiative 960 does not apply to locally imposed fees or specific statutory fees set in dollar amounts or percentages. Consequently, the impact on counties is minimal. However, the issue has created quite a distraction as the three corners begin budget negotiations in the final days of session.

CERB Bill Gets “Christmas Tree” Treatment

[2SSB 6855](#) passed the House 65-28-0-5 on a largely party line vote. The bill was substantially revised on the floor, but not with respect to changes made to the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) in the underlying bill. With the broad title of “an act related to dedicated funding for jobs, economic development, and local capital projects,” the House added the contents of [HB 3125](#) and [HB 3163](#) to the bill.

[HB 3163](#) creates a military improvement zone program to allow specific areas to retain state sales and use tax for infrastructure related to affordable housing development in the area. [HB 3163](#) creates a building communities fund program and to make grants for acquiring, constructing, or rehabilitating nonresidential community services facilities. With time running out, tacking these bills onto [2SSB 6855](#) keeps them alive. Neither bill harms counties; however, there are rumors that the funding for these programs could be taken from the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). WSAC opposes diversions from the PWAA.

Voter-Approved Increases in Property Tax Levy Limitations

The House approved [ESB 6641](#) on Thursday, March 6. This bill addresses [ESSB 5498](#) from the 2007 legislative session, which unintentionally changed how levy rates are calculated at the end of a lid lift. The bill is headed to the Governor. If approved by the Governor, this bill will require that the title of a lid lift proposition (whether temporary or permanent) "expressly state" if the final levy will serve as the basis from which subsequent levies are to be calculated or if the base will be recalculated as if the lid lift had not occurred. If the title is silent, then the levy rate will rebased as if the lid lift had never happened.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Clerks' Bill Expires

Hopes were dimmed on Friday for the passage of [SB 6193](#), a bill to give county clerks the authority to withhold and deliver funds of convicted offenders for the payment of court-ordered legal financial obligations. County clerks worked hard to convince legislators that the many perceptions of the process are not so. The authority was expected to be used only rarely and then only to target funds in the event the offender is extremely delinquent and has come into a windfall. [SB 6193](#) would have given county clerks the same authority the Department of Corrections has. Clerks assumed the collection duty from DOC in 2003.

Coroners Corner

[E2SHB 2624](#), human remains, passed the Senate on Friday with a controversial amendment that was added in the Senate regarding which Native American Tribes are included in the bill. A recent article in the Tacoma News Tribune reported [E2SHB 2624](#) was endangered by a dispute among tribes as to whether tribes are that are not federally recognized governments should be included. The companion [SB 6521](#) did not get out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. In the bill passed by the Senate Friday, the House must concur in the Senate amendment that recognizes all Native American tribes in the State. If not, the bill will go to a conference committee of House and Senate members. If [E2SHB](#) is not funded in the Supplemental Budget, the bill is null and void.

Anatomical Gifts

2ESHB 1637, anatomical gifts, passed the Senate. The county coroners and medical examiners worked with tissue and organ donor groups over the interim to perfect the bill which makes donation laws more consistent across the United States.

Of Interest to Sheriffs

Eluding Sentencing Enhancement Passes!

After four sessions, ESHB 1030, enhancing the sentence for eluding a police vehicle, finally passed the Senate. The bill was amended in the Senate Judiciary Committee and dictates that the court must impose a sentence of 12 months and one day of imprisonment, in addition to the standard sentencing range, for any offender convicted of attempting to elude a police vehicle if the conviction included a finding by special allegation of endangering one or more persons other than the defendant or the pursuing law enforcement officer. The original bill required a finding of endangering a person other than the defendant. The House concurred with the Senate amendment and now HB 1030, at long last, will go to the Governor for signature.

Tribal Law Enforcement

EHB 2476, commissioning tribal law enforcement officers to act as general authority peace officers, passed the Senate. An amendment was adopted that would delay implementation for one year, but the House must concur.

Sex Offender Legislation

All bills had until 5:00 p.m. on Friday to pass out of the opposite house from which they were introduced. If the bill has been amended in the second house, it must go back to the house of origin for concurrence. If it does not receive concurrence, the bill is referred to a conference committee composed of members from each body. These are the bills dealing with sex offenders that are of interest, along with their status:

SSB 6933, allowing evidence of a prior sex offense to be considered, passed the House Wednesday 91-5. SSB 6933 is a WACO priority.

2SHB 2713, DNA identification passed. It is a WACO priority.

HB 1836, sex and kidnapping offenders – died.

SHB 2439, sex offender immigration status – died.

SHB 2444, sex offenders and internet information – died.

2SHB 2714, kidnapping and sex offenders. The House does not concur with Senate amendments.

HB 2728, misdemeanor sex offenders – died.

HB 2786, level 1 sex offenders– passed.

HB 2786 adds level 1 offenders to the WASPC website – passed.

HB 3161 sex offender monitoring – died.

SB 6358, predatory perpetrators – died.

SSB 6596, sex offender policy board – passed.

Note: HB 2569 failed to leave the Appropriations Committee but \$5 million has been included in the Supplemental Budget for WASPC to assist local law enforcement agencies in verifying addresses of sex offenders and notifying the public.

Wrongful Death Bill Amended for the Better

Late Thursday night, the Senate brought E3SHB 1873 to a vote. After dueling motions whether to adopt or not adopt the Senate Ways & Means Committee amendment on joint and several liability, floor action came to a halt. For several minutes, members crowded around the Democratic and Republic floor leaders as they debated how to proceed. Finally, they agreed that the Senate would take up the bill and the full Senate would decide whether to suspend joint and several liability for the state and political subdivisions in wrongful death actions. In addition, a second amendment to limit new causes of action to adult children under age 26 was proposed. In true political drama, both amendments passed with *exactly* enough votes to adopt the changes.

Senator Dale Brandland (R-Bellingham) needs to be recognized for his leadership on the issue, for calling for the amendment in committee, and asking his colleagues to support it on the floor. WSAC is truly grateful for the Republic caucus holding together to support the amendments and to Senators Hargrove, Haugen, Rockefeller, Rasmussen, Kastama, Shin, Berkey, and Sheldon for providing the necessary eight votes for a majority.

The bill went back to the House and on Saturday it voted down the Senate amendments. It is likely that a conference committee will be called to work out a final bill. **We urge you to contact your members to change their vote and support the bill as passed by the Senate.**

The current version of the bill is now substantially improved for state and local government. While we would be subject to new causes of action by parents or insurance beneficiaries of adult children up to age 26 who suffer a wrongful death, rather than current law at age 18, we would only be responsible for the portion of damages attributed by the jury to our actions. It is a significant change to the previous version that would have applied joint liability to these new causes of action – usually resulting in the "deep pocket" paying all or nearly all of the award.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

Inactive Voters

HB 2473, eliminating the requirement that auditors send a ballot or an application to receive a ballot to inactive voters, made it to the Senate floor calendar last week, where it was a victim of too little time and it died with the cutoff. The bill passed the House 95-0.

Electronic Recording

EHB 2459, the Secretary of State's bill (SOS) creating the uniform real property electronic recording act, passed the Senate last week, 48-0, and is on its way to the Governor's desk.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Project Evaluators Needed For Park, Recreation, Conservation and Farmland Projects!!!

The Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly known as the IAC), is looking for some good candidates to help evaluate and rank grant proposals. The RCO is currently accepting grants for everything from boating facilities, to parks, to trails, to farmland and wildlife conservation projects. The RCO needs more than 100 volunteers to evaluate and score grant applications and specifically needs local government representatives, port district representatives, recreational interest representatives, and conservation interest representatives. Reimbursement costs for travel and associated costs are available in most situations.

For more information and to volunteer to **help determine what parks, trails, recreation and conservation projects get state funding** visit:

http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/temp/announce_adv_cmte.htm

General Land Use/Permitting Bills

SSB 6609, limiting the charge for permits for specialty agricultural buildings, has not passed yet. This bill establishes a statewide limit of \$75 on the amount that can be charged for specialty agricultural building permits. WSAC opposes a statewide preemption to establish a limit on the amount of a permit fee beyond the costs currently permitted by law. WSAC is working to establish a legislative task force on agricultural structure permits in lieu of this bill.

SB 6892, concerns the time limits of school impact fee expenditures and increases the length a jurisdiction can hold impact fees prior to expenditure. This bill is now in House Rules.

HB 2110, allowing all fire protection facilities to use impact fees, is in Senate Rules second reading.

SHB 2575, forming a technical advisory group on fire sprinkler systems in private residences, died in Senate Rules.

E2SHB 3186, authorizing the creation of beach management districts, has passed the Senate and will go back to the House for concurrence.

Climate Change

ESSB 6580, local solutions to climate change/GMA, contains the basic components of methods, pilot projects, and stakeholder work groups. It passed the House 58-35 and will go back to the Senate for concurrence.

Housing

ESHB 1727, planning to ensure sufficient land and densities to accommodate growth, is in Senate Ways and Means. The bill requires consultation and cooperation between cities and counties in the adoption of rules and regulations in Urban Growth Areas. This bill still has language that WSAC OPPOSES and we have provided amendatory language. Specifically, WSAC opposes Section 4/Subsection 3 of this bill.

Annexation

SHB 2482, relating to the signature validation process for petitions that seek annexation, passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor's desk..

HB 2483, modifying assessed valuation requirements for the direct petition method of annexation, died in Senate Rules.

Natural Resources

HB 2438, providing a pilot project extension for the use of dogs to hunt cougars, has been delivered to the Governor. Animal rights activists have hinted they may be asking for a full or partial veto.

SB 6874, Columbia River Settlement Account, has passed both houses in slightly differing form. Language sought by Sen. Bob Morton in a water transfer bill (SB 6348) has been added to SB 6874 to insure that all issues related to the adverse effects of out-of-basin water transfers are studied during the interim, perhaps through a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Ecology.

SB 6227, coastal marine resource committees, still awaits funding in the operating budget for implementation.

SB 6607, Shellfish Protection District assessments, was amended in the House to provide a cap on all agricultural landowners, not just dairy operators as originally envisioned. It has now passed both houses in slightly differing forms. Counties remain opposed due to the state preemption over rates of assessments. An eleventh hour compromise involving a rollback of assessment at the county level may be considered by the parties.

Priority bills for the environmental community, SB 6580, climate change impacts and planning; HB 2815, greenhouse gas emissions and green jobs; HB 2844, Evergreen Cities; and SB 6483, Local Farms-Healthy Kids, all remain alive but continue to evolve as they encounter headwinds in committee and during floor debate.

Bills that appear dead for the session include:

HB 2471, funding and implementing the state geological survey. (Money was not provided in the Governor's budget and neither the House nor Senate was willing to add it.)

SB 5818, requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife to participate in the cooperative programs of the Yukon to Yellowstone Initiative, died, but its prime sponsor, Sen. Ken Jacobsen, has hinted he may reintroduce it next year. Northeast Washington landowners had expressed concern over the Initiative, fearing possible new land use restrictions

SB 6348, studying the adverse affects of interbasin water rights, died in the House Appropriations Committee but major elements of the measure have been incorporated into SB 6874 (see above).

General Government

Public Safety Revenue Awaits Senate Concurrence

By a vote of 82-12-4, [ESSB 6573](#) was the second to last bill passed by the House before Friday's cut-off. This bill went on a rollercoaster of changes during the last week of session. The bill was heard in House Appropriations on the last day of committee action after much lobbying by police, fire fighter, and local government groups. After a contentious hearing, the bill's funding was halved and language was added to provide more legislative oversight on the creation of a new LEOFF Plan 2 benefit.

However, in the waning hours before cut-off, a striking amendment was offered on the floor by Representative Mark Ericks (D-Bothell) to restore the funding as passed by the Senate. As passed by the House, the bill will:

- Dedicate funds in equal portions for:
 - Local jurisdictions to support criminal justice services, information and assistance to parents and families dealing with at-risk or runaway youth, or other public safety purposes.
 - Future LEOFF Plan 2 benefits (adopted by the Legislature and actuarially fully funded by the new LEOFF Plan 2 account).
- Transfer up to \$50 million per biennium for the purposes listed above (the appropriation of funds is contingent upon general state revenues increasing more than 5%).
- Appropriations would be phased:
 - \$5 million in 2011
 - \$10 million in 2013
 - \$20 million in 2015
 - The lesser of 1/3 the state's general fund increase or \$50 million in 2017 and for future biennia
- Distributions to local governments would begin January 2012 and each January thereafter.
- Distribute funds to local jurisdictions based on their number of LEOFF Plan 2 members compared to total LEOFF Plan 2 membership (cities contracting for law enforcement or fire protection services with other entities must agree on the distribution of funds).

One unfortunate addition to [ESSB 6573](#) was non-supplant language to the local government distributions. The non-supplant language is identical to what was used in [SB 5498](#), the six-year levy lid lift from 2007, which excludes lost federal funds, expired state loans and grants, non-recurring capital expenditures, and contract changes beyond the control of the jurisdiction.

Action Alert – Your Help Needed on HB 3139

[HB 3139](#), which would require the payment of worker compensation benefits while the validity of an employee's claim is pending on appeal, passed the Senate on Friday. WSAC along with several self-insured employers groups had been supporting an amendment offered by Senator Ed Murray (D-Seattle) to create an employee-paid fund to reimburse employers if a claim was ultimately denied. However, because the amendment would "raise state revenue," questions arose whether Initiative 960's provisions (email notifications, public vote, etc.) applied. Consequently, the bill passed the Senate as a study bill in an effort to keep the bill alive.

The House is planning to request a conference committee to work out the final bill. Please let your members in both the House and Senate know that the underlying bill is not acceptable. WSAC can accept a study, as well as the Murray amendment. Anything can happen in a conference committee. It is important that your legislators understand that this bill negatively impacts counties.

Drivers Abstract Legislation

[SB 6885](#) to allow the local government risk pools to obtain drivers abstracts of employees from the Department of Licensing passed the House and is now on its way to the Governor. If you support this legislation, please send an email to the Governor asking her to sign the legislation.

Last Open Government Bill Fails to Advance

HB 2567, to increase the civil penalty for knowingly violating the Open Meetings Act, died on the Senate floor calendar.

Public Health & Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Bills and Budget

Developmental disabilities bills WSAC is monitoring include HB 2903, creating the position of Court Access and Accommodations Coordinator to address access to courts, which was passed by the Senate. SB 6448, providing for intensive behavior support services for children with developmental disabilities, which died in the Appropriations Committee, and SB 6583, changing provisions relating to eligibility for medical assistance within the 2009-2011 budget, is on its way to the Governor's desk.

RSN News

SB 6404 passed out of the House with substitute language from the House Health Care and Wellness committee. The House Healthcare and Wellness Committee passed a substitute that would allow an RSN that voluntarily terminates its contract to serve as an RSN after 5 years with 180 day notice, and the Senate Human Services and Corrections committee substitute includes the 5 year time period along with the notice of intent reduced to the current 90 days, and with language providing incentive for non-profits. The House and Senate will negotiate the concurrence language between the versions. We also continue to monitor the budget allocations for RSNs.

Menu Labeling

None of the four bills regarding menu labeling introduced this session appears to have survived the 2008 session. The most prominent is ESHB 3160 (SB 6659 companion), a modified version of one of two bills introduced by the Washington Restaurant Association (WRA). Essentially dead, ESHB 3160 would create a menu labeling task force that would study menu labeling and report back to the Legislature in December. The preemptive and moratorium sections of the bill's previous versions were stricken.

The two bills introduced by the WRA were driven by the Seattle King County Board of Health (BOH) regulation regarding menu labeling that goes into effect on August 1, 2008. During the 2008 session, the Legislature directed the parties "to work it out." Negotiations regarding the Seattle/KC BOH regulation have continued over the last few weeks between Seattle/KC and the WRA.

On March 8, 2008, the parties signed a written Agreement. Seattle/KC agreed to modify its BOH regulation pursuant to the agreed upon terms, which softened some of the original requirements and provided clarification regarding how and where nutritional information would be provided. In return, the WRA essentially agreed not to sue Seattle/KC regarding its BOH menu labeling regulation. The WRA also agreed to request that the Legislature take no action regarding ESHB 3160 and SB 6659.

From WSALPHO's perspective, the Agreement reached between Seattle/KC and the WRA reflects a significantly positive result for local public health. The Agreement will allow the substance of Seattle/KC BOH's regulation to proceed as originally intended. Additionally, the Agreement will likely ensure that no menu labeling legislation – including legislation preemptive of local public health - will be enacted this session.

Transportation & Public Works

Tolls

SHB 1773 passed the House 59-35, and passed the Senate 29-19. 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) may 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 1990's, 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. **SB 6321** proposed to transfer this authority to the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC). The bill died with the cutoff.

Wetland Mitigation Banking

SB 6761 states that the criteria for determining a service area for a wetland mitigation bank must include restricting, with exceptions, the maximum allowable service area to the water resource inventory area (WRIA) in which the bank is located. Most important, the Department of Ecology and the appropriate county or city in which the bank is located have final approval for determining the service area for specific banks. WSAC supported the bill which passed both houses.

Regional Transportation Investment Districts

SB 6771, temporarily eliminating the opportunity for a regional transportation investment district to be formed, and keeping the participating county or counties from submitting a ballot proposition to voters prior to November 1, 2009, died in the House Rules Committee.

Eminent Domain Legislation Fails to Advance

ESHB 2016 passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously last week with several changes advanced by WSAC. The changes included:

- Restoration of a fee cap. The fee could range from \$750 to \$10,000 depending on value of the property.
- Increased the condemnees' right of repurchase if the condemned property is to be surplus within 20 years of condemnation. The repurchase rights would not apply if it conflicted with federal law or jeopardized federal funds, if the transfer was to another public entity for a public use, or if reconveyance to another private or public party was required to complete the project.
- Prohibits the use of eminent domain when the purpose is solely (rather than substantially) to increase the tax base, increase employment, or to be resold to a private party.

Because of a largely fiscal note from the Department of Transportation, the bill was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee. WSAC spoke to the issues the bill created with transportation projects and a striker to exclude such projects was distributed at the hearing. Advocates for more stringent limits on condemnation spoke against the striker and the Senate Judiciary amendments, and asked the Committee to restore the bill to the language from the House.

With such divergent testimony on the bill, there were few votes to move the bill out of committee as is. As a result, Senator Derek Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor) offered an intent-only amendment to keep the bill alive. However, the bill failed to get the necessary signatures to move out of committee and the issue is dead for this year.

Boards & Commissions

Apply by March 17 for Statewide Boards and Commissions Openings

To apply for any of the following statewide board and commission 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.

The WSAC Board will either nominate or appoint representatives according to statute at their March 27 regular meeting.

The following position is available to county department heads or County Commissioners, Councilmembers or Executives:

Local Government Advisory Committee

The Local Government Advisory Committee, advisors to the State Auditor's Office, takes a lead role in setting statewide financial policies, including accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting. The Committee makes recommendations to the Legislature and responds when lawmakers change policies that effect the BARS prescription.

<http://www.sao.wa.gov/LocalGovernment/LGAC/Index.htm>

The following positions are available to County Commissioners, Councilmembers or Executives only:

Ecosystem Coordinating Board –Alternate

Counties are represented by seven individuals on the "Ecosystem Coordination Board"; Commissioner Kevin Ranker is the lead representative and an alternate is needed in the event he is unable to attend.

http://www.psp.wa.gov/EB_about.html

Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee – Eastside Alternate http://emd.wa.gov/e911/e911_advisory_committee.shtml

Municipal Research Council - The Municipal Research Council is a state agency that provides a comprehensive research and services program for the 281 cities and towns and 39 counties of Washington State.

<http://www.mrsc.org/council.aspx#member>

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>

Transportation Improvement Board – County with population of 125,000 or more

This four year term will commence July 1, 2008.

<http://www.tib.wa.gov/>

Washington Biodiversity Council – The Council's primary task for the next year is to implement the recommendations in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, released last December. The Council is interested in eastside representation but this recruitment is open to all 39 counties.

<http://www.biodiversity.wa.gov/council/index.html>

Training & Upcoming Events

Stormwater Conference This Month

The Environmental Business Council is hosting a one-day specialty conference, *Managing Stormwater in Washington: Complying with Current Regulations*, on March 27 in Tukwila. The conference will provide current information on Construction, Industrial, and Municipal Phase II NPDES permits and how local jurisdictions are developing programs to address these requirements. Rulings from the Pollution Control Hearings Board will also be reviewed, along with an analysis of what they mean for businesses and municipalities. The afternoon will showcase best practice solutions to stormwater management challenges.

Managing Stormwater in Washington offers you an opportunity to learn about Washington's stormwater compliance regulations and enforcement policies while providing solutions to stormwater issues.

For the agenda and registration information, visit: <http://www.nebc.org/content.aspx?pageid=27>

Creating Cooler Communities: Municipal Responses to Climate Change

Climate change has been recognized as "the defining environmental challenge of our generation."

Washington's local governments and citizens have diverse perspectives regarding the issue of climate change. A growing number of local governments in Washington recognize the threats, challenges and opportunities

posed by climate change and are working to mitigate impacts, adapt operations and services and create new opportunities for Washington State and its citizens.

The Association of Washington Cities' "Creating Cooler Communities" Workshop will be held on April 16, 2008 at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, 1500 Broadway Plaza. Designed for local elected officials and professional staff alike, this workshop will provide practical help for local governments to begin or to advance their response to the Climate Change Challenge. Using a mixture of general sessions, concurrent sessions and case studies, you will learn more about anticipated challenges and policy options to ensure the wisest use of scarce public resources; and obtain tools and resources to help you develop a response to climate change that is most effective for your community and region.

Topics will include:

- Emission Inventory and Tracking
- Transportation Management (fleets and VMT reduction)
- Using Green Technology
- Green Development
- Smart Growth and Climate Change
- Growing the Green Economy

The fee is \$125 per person. For more information and to register:

<http://www.awcnet.org/Apps/currentworkshoplister.asp>

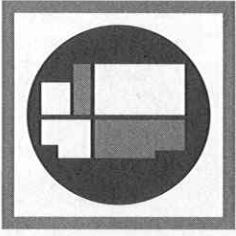
Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events)

Courthouse Ramblings

Courthouse Ramblings

If you have not yet sent an RSVP to the retirement celebration for Kitsap County Auditor Karen Flynn, please do so immediately. The dinner and celebration in honor of Karen's 21 years in office is on Friday, March 28, at Kiana Lodge, in Poulsbo, beginning at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$50. Please call either 360-337-5688 or 360-337-7118 if you are planning to attend.

Good Things



WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
and
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS



Telephone (360) 753-1886
Fax 753-2842

Telephone (360) 753-7319
Fax 664-2812

February 15, 2008

TO: Applying Student

RE: The Washington Counties Scholarship Application
Five **\$3,000** Washington Counties scholarships

To be considered, you must submit the following:

- *A signed and completed scholarship application.*
- *A **separate** sheet listing activities, honors and awards.*
- *Two letters of recommendation which must be signed.*
- *A personal statement (limit 300 words).*
- *A sealed transcript of your most recent grades.*
- ***NO PICTURES, PLEASE.***

Completed applications must be **postmarked no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2008**. Awards will be made in **early May of 2008 for the 2008/09 school year**.

Send your completed application to:

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund
206 Tenth Avenue SE
Olympia WA 98501-1311

Good Luck!

WASHINGTON COUNTIES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2008/09 Scholarship Application

Five scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each will be awarded to eligible children of county employees and elected officials by the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund on behalf of the members of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC). Recipients must be full-time students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program. Eligible students are defined on the reverse side of this form.

I. Please type or print clearly:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Phone: _____

County of Residence: _____ Birthdate: _____

High School Attended: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

College most recently attended (if applicable): _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Year in school for 2008/09: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Certification

Names of Parents: _____

Name of Parent(s) employed by County: _____

County where Parent is employed: _____

Department: _____ Work phone: _____

2. Please list the following on a separate sheet:

- School and Community Activities/Involvement (include dates)
- Honors and Awards (include dates)

3. To complete your scholarship application, you must submit **two** letters of recommendation which must be signed; a personal statement discussing your academic goals and expectations (limit 300 words); and a **sealed** transcript from the high school or college you are currently attending. The packet must be postmarked and mailed no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2008. We suggest that you submit the required materials as a group. If letters or recommendations arrive separately, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are received by the deadline. If the packet is incomplete by this deadline you will be eliminated from consideration. Letters of recommendation should be from individuals who are particularly aware and supportive of your academic and leadership capabilities as well as your accomplishments to date and must be signed. Your overall score will be lower if all portions of the application are not complete. The highest number of points is assigned to your personal statement; you should compose it with this in mind. **NO PICTURES, PLEASE.** Forward your materials to the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund c/o Washington Counties Building, 206 10th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Please note that applications will not be retained nor returned by the Committee.

Student's Signature

Date

DEFINITIONS

Eligible Applicants are "children of county employees (including children of all elected officials) who are full-time students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program." (*Bylaws of the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund, Article II, Section 1.*)

"Eligible Children...DOES NOT INCLUDE children of the following:

- a. Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Executive Committee;
- b. Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) Executive Officers and most recent Past President.
- c. Members of the Scholarship Fund Investment Committee and Selection Committee.
- d. Substantial Contributors, defined as being a member contributing \$1,000 or more in a consecutive two (2) year period.
- e. Other disqualifying individuals as defined by the IRS Code." (*BYLAWS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTIES SCHOLARSHIP FUND, Article II, Section 5.*)

Full-Time Student is defined according to the criteria for "full-time" as defined by the institution being attended. **Children** as defined by the IRS are "dependent" and does not include emancipated children, spouses, or grandchildren of county employees.

2008/09 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION EVALUATION POINTS

*Category	Possible Points
Honors, awards, leadership	15
Personal statement	25
Personal initiative and family	10
Community and/or school involvement	15
Recommendations	<u>10</u>
	75

* These are guidelines only...

Grade point average is not always a deciding factor