

# the Courthouse Journal

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

**April 24, 2008**  
**Issue No. 13**

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

## State Proposes Ballot Language for Top Two Primary

The Office of Secretary of State has released proposed ballot language for the Top Two Primary, a qualifying election that allows voters to support any candidate running for public office.

"Voters will be thrilled with the Top Two Primary," said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "Freedom on the ballot is the core of Washington's political heritage."

Following a landmark decision by the United States Supreme Court, Washington will conduct a new primary August 19 that gives people the freedom on the ballot they cherish: the right to vote for the person, not the political party.

"The battles over Washington's primary have topped legislative sessions, filled court rooms, and dominated campaign seasons," said Reed. "The U.S. Supreme Court put the state on notice to reinstate the Top Two Primary, but carefully craft the primary ballot. We're paying attention and we'll get it right."

The decision is hailed by the voting public and by Secretary of State Sam Reed who, along with Attorney General Rob McKenna, took the people's case for freedom on the ballot to the country's highest court.

"This "People's Choice" primary gives voters the freedom to select the top two candidates to proceed to the general election ballot, without interfering with the parties' ability to nominate or support their preferred candidate," McKenna said.

The Top Two Primary, passed overwhelmingly by citizen initiative in 2004, sends the two candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary to the General Election ballot regardless of their political party preferences. Voters do not pick a political party and may freely choose any candidate on the ballot.

The instructions and the ballot must make clear to voters that, while all candidates for partisan office may state their political party preferences, preferences do not imply that the candidates are endorsed or nominated by that party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

No endorsements or nominations by private organizations may appear on the ballot.

**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**

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and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

(WSAC) [wacounties.org/wsac](http://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 Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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**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 (CPO) and L&I Retro Project Manager*

Under state law, candidates for partisan office may state their political party preferences on the ballot. The state is proposing the following wording appear beneath candidate names on the ballot:

JOHN SMITH

(Prefers Example Party)

Or:

JOHN SMITH

(States No Party Preference)

Details of final implementation are still under consideration. Final decisions on ballot wording will be made in the coming weeks. The Top Two Primary is slated for August 19.

## **Valoria Loveland to Retire as Agriculture Director**

Valoria Loveland, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture is retiring after six years in the position. Prior to serving as Director of Agriculture under two governors, Loveland was a State Senator and chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, chair of the Public Disclosure Commission and Franklin County Treasurer. She is also a past president of WACO.

Loveland has been on numerous international trade missions and is credited with helping boost agricultural exports to record levels and promoting Washington products throughout the country and abroad.

Loveland's retirement is effective May 5. The current deputy director at Agriculture, Robert Gore, will serve as the agency's interim director until a permanent director is appointed by Governor Gregoire.

### **Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:**

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

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

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# Budget, Finance and Taxes

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## Streamlined Sales Tax Mitigation

On July 1, 2008, the State of Washington will take the final step in conforming with the national Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA) by basing the local retail sales tax on shipped or delivered goods on the destination of the goods instead of their origin.

This change, which is the result of SSB 5089 approved in the 2007 session, will shift local sales tax revenues among jurisdictions; some jurisdictions will gain revenues while others will see a loss. To ease the hardship on negatively impacted jurisdictions, a provision was included in the streamlined sales tax statute to mitigate losses in revenue. A mitigation advisory group has been meeting since August 2007 to advise the Department of Revenue (DOR) on how mitigation will be administered.

Although most counties were estimated to gain revenue, those estimates were based on 2002 retail activity. Business closures, annexations, new sales tax exemptions, and other changes to your local economy will affect those estimates. Consequently, it is possible that more counties may lose revenue from SSUTA and require mitigation.

To assist local governments in planning for this change and understanding its revenue implications, DOR has planned a series of workshops and presentations around the state where cities and counties can learn about the changes, understand how mitigation will be administered, and ask questions about how new tools and resources that will be available to help businesses will help ensure on-time and more accurate compliance with the changes.

## Destination-based Sales Tax -- Mitigation for Local Governments Presentation Schedule for Cities and Counties (as of 4/21/08)

<b>Friday, May 9, 2008</b> 3 pm – 4 pm	Eastern WA Finance Officers' Spring Meeting Hampton Inn, 2010 S. Assembly Road, Spokane Contact: Nickole Schutte, Newport Clerk/Treasurer, <a href="mailto:clerk@newport-wa.org">clerk@newport-wa.org</a> or 509-447-5611 Registration: <a href="http://www.awcnet.org/documents/EWFOAregform.pdf">www.awcnet.org/documents/EWFOAregform.pdf</a> (full day conference 8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
<b>Wednesday, June 11, 2008</b> Noon – 1 pm (Lunch at 11:30 am)	Puget Sound Finance Officers' Luncheon Meeting Gordon's on the Green, 13500 Interurban Avenue S., Tukwila Contact: Sandi Hines, City of Kirkland, <a href="mailto:shines@ci.kirkland.wa.us">shines@ci.kirkland.wa.us</a> or (425) 587-3132 Registration fee: \$25
<b>Wednesday, June 18, 2008</b> 10 am - Noon	Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Conference Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton Contact: <a href="http://www.wacounties.org/wsac">http://www.wacounties.org/wsac</a>
<b>Thursday, June 19, 2008</b> 1:30 pm - 3 pm	Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference Yakima Convention Center, Yakima Contact: <a href="http://www.awcnet.org/awccconf08/index.htm">http://www.awcnet.org/awccconf08/index.htm</a>
<b>Thursday, June 19, 2008</b> TBD	WFOA/AWC SST Local Government Mitigation Training (Presentation for both cities and counties) Yakima (specific location to be determined)
<b>Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008</b>	Local Government Mitigation, AWC/WFOA Introduction to

- 1 pm – 3:30 pm                      Municipal Budgeting Workshop Pre-conference Session  
(Presentation for both cities and counties)  
Enzian Inn, 590 Hwy 2, Leavenworth  
Contact: [www.awcnet.org/budgeting](http://www.awcnet.org/budgeting)
- Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008**                      Local Government Mitigation, AWC/WFOA Introduction to  
1 pm – 3:30 pm                      Municipal Budgeting Workshop Pre-conference Session  
(Presentation for both cities and counties)  
Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,  
Redmond  
Contact: [www.awcnet.org/budgeting](http://www.awcnet.org/budgeting)
- Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008**                      Washington Finance Officers' Association Annual Meeting  
4 pm – 5 pm                      Yakima Convention Center, Yakima  
Contact: [www.wfoa.org](http://www.wfoa.org)

For questions, please contact Miki Gearhart at [mikig@dor.wa.gov](mailto:mikig@dor.wa.gov) or 360 570-6127

**Department of Revenue Business Trainings on Sales Tax Tools and Destination Sourcing**

The Department of Revenue has also developed a number of new tools to assist the business community in complying with the reporting changes. It has scheduled a series of regional workshops as a follow-up to sessions held for the business community last year that will include information about new tools and assistance developed to assist businesses in making conversions to destination-based sourcing on July 1, 2008. Counties are encouraged to partner with their chambers of commerce to publicize local workshops to their business community, and county officials may want to attend. Additional presentations have also been scheduled for regular meetings of local chambers and rotaries.

**Contact & Registration:** <http://destinationtax.dor.wa.gov>, click on attend a workshop (Check website for updated schedule & locations). Note: one Spanish language and one Korean language workshop currently scheduled.

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| April | 16 | Federal Way                                   |
|       | 24 | Vancouver                                     |
|       | 29 | Spokane                                       |
| May   | 1  | Olympia                                       |
|       | 6  | <i>Spanish Language Workshop – SeaTac</i>     |
|       | 7  | Bellingham                                    |
|       | 13 | <i>Korean Language Workshop – Federal Way</i> |
|       | 14 | Everett                                       |
|       | 20 | Tacoma  |
|       | 21 | Tukwila                                       |
|       | 22 | Yakima  |
|       | 28 | Centralia                                     |
|       | 29 | Bellevue                                      |
| June  | 3  | Lynnwood                                      |
|       | 4  | Kennewick                                     |
|       | 10 | Silverdale                                    |
|       | 11 | Wenatchee                                     |
|       | 17 | Walla Walla                                   |

**For more information**

AWC Streamlined Sales Tax website: [www.awcnet.org/streamlinedtax](http://www.awcnet.org/streamlinedtax)

DOR destination sales tax information & tools: <http://destinationtax.dor.wa.gov>

National Streamlined Sales Tax Project: [www.streamlinedsalestax.org](http://www.streamlinedsalestax.org)

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

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### **Clean Diesel Grants Available to Counties**

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites cities, counties, state agencies, public utility districts/co-ops, regulated utilities, port and transit authorities and private fleets operating mainly in Washington to apply for funds to install retrofit exhaust emission control and idle reduction technologies on heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment through the [Washington State Clean Diesel Grant Program](#). Public fleets may receive funding for both retrofit exhaust emission control and idle reduction technologies. Private fleets may receive funding only for retrofit exhaust emission control technologies.

This program has funded the retrofitting of more than 7,000 heavy-duty vehicles since 2002. The total funding for this opportunity is approximately \$2,500,000. Funds must be used to pay for equipment and installation. Grant recipients may not use retrofit funds to pay for administrative expenses. Each eligible project will be evaluated based on its ability to reduce exposure to diesel emissions and improve public health.

Priority consideration will be given to applications received on or before **June 6, 2008**.

See <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/DieselGrantPage.htm> for an application.

For further information contact Rod Tinnemore at (360) 407-6978 or [rtin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:rtin461@ecy.wa.gov).

### **Commissioners Pearce and Hover Continue to Represent WSAC in Washington D.C. for the Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act**

*Friends and Colleagues, here's an update from Commissioners Pearce and Hover:*

#### **Background:**

In Sept 2006 the SRS/County Payments law came to its end. We had no luck getting reauthorization; working it very hard through the end of that year.

In February/March 2007 the Senate took up the issue and crafted a 5 year plan which stepped down payments by 10% a year while increasing PILT to full funding for the first time since its inception. This was added as an amendment to the Emergency Supplemental Budget. The House had added a one year reauthorization of SRS to their version of the supplemental. As you will recall, the President vetoed that bill. An agreement was finally reached to include a one year reauthorization and this passed in May.

In the fall of 2007 the House developed a bill through the resource committee that mirrored the payments in the 5 year Senate Amendment (although it was for only 4 years). This language made it to the Energy Bill in December but was thrown out with the Energy Bill tax package after a heartbreaking 59 yes votes in the Senate (we needed 60).

#### **Current:**

Now, the House and Senate are working on their respective emergency supplemental for 2008. Thanks to our Senators Murray and Cantwell, the Senate has a letter signed by 24 Senators asking that the last 4 years of their 5 year plan be included in the bill.

The House has a letter asking that their version of the supplemental contain a one year reauthorization. Okanogan Commissioner Bud Hover and I, acting as the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition team, spent this last week working the House letter which now has over 65 signatures. We also visited all of the House Appropriation Committee offices asking for their support when the bill comes to the committee. All of our House members except Representative Adam Smith have agreed to sign on to the letter and/or to support the one year reauthorization.

In the House we were pleased to hear, from both Democrats and Republicans, overwhelming support for our inclusion in the supplemental. It is anyone's guess what will happen when the House and Senate work their respective bills in conference committee. And there is still the threat of a Presidential veto. The only thing everyone agrees on is that they want this done before the Memorial Day recess.

We are very much in the same situation we were at this time last year, although we no longer have to educate people about our issue.

I am optimistic that the one year reauthorization will happen; less so that the multi-year will happen this go around.

Make sure, if you have the opportunity, to thank our respective Senators and Representatives for all their hard work and support.

Thanks to the Coalition who will have a team on the ground every week until the recess.

Thanks also go out to Ryan Yates from NACO (National Association of Counties) and Bob Weidner (Evergreen Group) who works for many of our counties, for all their hard work as well.

Paul Pearce  
Skamania County Commissioner

Bud Hover  
Okanogan County Commissioner

## **Volunteers Needed**

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) needs volunteers with expertise in habitat conservation projects. Specifically, we're looking for people with expertise in the areas mentioned below. Team members may include representatives from state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, recreational interests, academics, tribal governments, and the public.

### *Critical Habitat, Natural Areas, Urban Wildlife Habitat projects*

- Academia
- Acquisition of habitat properties and conservation easements
- Biology (conservation and/or non-game wildlife)
- Botany
- Ecology (landscape, riparian, plant, and/or wetlands)
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Geology
- Natural Resource Management
- Watershed Landscape Management and Planning
- Zoology

### *Riparian Protection projects*

- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Forestry

- Geomorphology
- Hydrology
- Lakes
- Land Use Management
- Marine or freshwater shorelines
- Urban planning
- Wetlands, streams, and river systems

Volunteers can serve on one of two teams:

- The review teams give technical comments to grant applicants so they may improve their projects before the formal grant application evaluations. Their work takes place on a single day in June.
- The evaluation teams score projects and their work takes place in late July and early August and involves several days.

For more information or to volunteer, visit the Web site at: [http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/temp/announce\\_adv\\_cmte.htm](http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/temp/announce_adv_cmte.htm). Click on the link called volunteers for parks and habitat areas or contact Lorinda Anderson as (360) 902-3009 or [lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov](mailto:lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov)

## **Pacific Northwest Salmon Center Seeking Nominations for the 2008 Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award**

The purpose of the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame is:

*“To honor and celebrate people who have demonstrated, over time, actions that have inspired and which continue to guide a passion for the preservation and recovery of abundant and diverse Wild Salmon populations throughout the Pacific Northwest. (Alaska, B.C., Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho)”*

We are seeking nominations for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Wild Salmon Hall of Fame award, with the winner to be announced on September 13 at a dinner celebration in Bremerton, Washington.

Individuals nominated for the award exemplify a dedicated, influential passion for Wild Salmon of the Pacific Northwest, as measured by specific criteria:

- *Demonstrates a passion for Wild Salmon in their career or volunteer work*
- *Enhances public knowledge and appreciation of Wild Salmon*
- *Creates a tangible, measurable outcome such as a book, artwork, event, or significant project*
- *Fosters a positive influence within his or her profession or the community*

The winner is chosen by a selection committee whose members are: Congressman Norm Dicks; Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Chair, Bill Ruckelshaus; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair, Billy Frank Jr.; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director, Jeff Koenings; and Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recovery Program Manager, Charles Corrarino.

Nomination forms for the Wild Salmon Hall of Fame Award can be obtained by contacting Michelle Hori at 360-275-2763, or from our website at <http://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org/wshf.xml>.

[Read here about last year’s finalists and award winners.](#)

Nominations are due by Friday, June 6, 2008.

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## Association News

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### **San Juan County Council Member and Longtime Environmental Leader Kevin Ranker to run for State Senate**

*With deep family roots in the region, Ranker promises action on priorities from economy and education to transportation*

Friday Harbor—Kevin Ranker, San Juan County Council Member and longtime leader in the effort to protect land and water resources, local agriculture and build thriving communities, has announced that he will seek the State Senate seat being vacated by Harriet Spanel. Ranker, a lifelong Democrat, lived in the San Juans as a child where he currently lives with his wife.

“In both my public and personal lives I am reminded every day how the decisions we make today impact future generations,” said Ranker. “Senator Spanel provided strong, visionary leadership for a long time and I look forward to building upon her legacy of progressive leadership.”

Ranker, who has successfully championed local issues in Olympia while working to provide quality services to a county challenged by island geography and a limited tax base, believes his experience in government and the private sector managing organizations is excellent training for entering the legislature, particularly during a sluggish economy.

“I’ve been successful making targeted, needed investments with limited resources while building opportunities to retain and create new jobs,” said Ranker, who has served as director of several conservation and community development organizations in addition to his elected office. “When elected, I’ll remain focused on the basics: protecting and growing local business and jobs, funding schools, and preserving our environment and small town quality of life.”

In addition to important local issues such as investing in Puget Sound cleanup and preserving family farms and business, Ranker has singled out education as a critical issue of focus.

“My grandmother, whom I lived with as a child, was an elementary school teacher on Orcas Island for many many years,” said Ranker. “There is no issue that defines our communities and makes our region of the state such an enviable place to live than having good schools that attract jobs and families.”

Ranker has gathered significant local support in Skagit and Whatcom Counties, including fellow county officials familiar with his work.

“From his significant experience in Olympia to his understanding of the needs of our local communities, Kevin Ranker understands the priorities of our County and the needs of Skagit families,” said Sharon Dillon, a Skagit County Commissioner. “He will be a great State Senator.”

“Kevin Ranker is a lifelong conservation leader and Chair of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council who is committed to schools and our economy,” said Whatcom County Council Member Bob Kelly. “He is the experienced, ideal choice for State Senate in Whatcom County and throughout the district.”

Ranker plans an aggressive, grass roots campaign that will take him to doorsteps and meeting rooms across the three-county district.

“I’ll be spending my spring and summer working hard to meet voters in every community of the district,” said Ranker. “Friends and volunteers in Bellingham, Bow, Mt. Vernon, Anacortes, and of course the islands are already calling and ready to lend a hand. I look forward to a great campaign.”

## **Become a Member of the WSAC/WACO Advocacy Network**

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) recognize the power and influence of grassroots advocacy and want to work to harness this for the Associations' advocacy efforts. WSAC and WACO are in the process of compiling a database that will track the relationships its members and affiliates have with the Governor's Office and the State Legislature.

This tool will be used to help WSAC and WACO members work more cooperatively with the State Government while also providing a rapid response mechanism to respond to actions of the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

To participate in the WSAC/WACO Advocacy Network, please fill out the Member Legislative Contacts survey by clicking on the link below. And thank you for helping to make WSAC and WACO more dynamic and engaged organizations.

[CLICK HERE for the WSAC/WACO Member Legislative Contacts Survey](#)

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## **Boards & Commissions**

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### **Representative needed for Transportation Improvement Board**

The Transportation Improvement Board has an open county seat for a Councilmember, Commissioner or Executive that currently serves on a transit board. This opening was created when Councilmember Calvin Goings recently stepped down due to scheduling conflicts. The term expires on June 30, 2010. For more information, visit [www.tib.wa.gov](http://www.tib.wa.gov). The WSAC Board of Directors will forward a minimum of two nominees to the Transportation Secretary for appointment after its June meeting. To be considered for nomination, please send your name and a short statement of interest including your involvement on a transit board, to Michelle Zahrly at [mzahrly@wacounties.org](mailto:mzahrly@wacounties.org) by June 3.

### **Representative needed for Sex Offender Policy Board**

WSAC is in need of a County Commissioner, Councilmember or Executive or a County department head to represent WSAC on the sex offender policy board, established under **SSB 6596**. The legislation gives the board a variety of duties related to policy issues related to sex offense prevention and response, as well as offender management. Board members are appointed to three year terms.

The duties of the board include staying apprised of research and best practices related to risk assessment, treatment, and supervision of sex offenders, community education regarding sex offenses and offenders, prevention of sex offenses, and sex offender management in general; conducting case reviews on sex offenses as needed to understand the performance of sex offender prevention to response systems or are requested by the Governor, the Legislature, or law enforcement; and developing and report on benchmarks that measure performance across the state's sex offender response system.

To submit your name, please send an email with your contact information and a short statement of interest to [mzahrly@wacounties.org](mailto:mzahrly@wacounties.org) by **May 7**. The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment.

### **Representative needed for the Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee**

WSAC is in need of a County Commissioner, Councilmember or Executive or a County department head to represent WSAC on the Office of Public Defense (OPD) Advisory Board. The statute does not allow OPD Advisory Committee members to currently work in any capacity as public defenders, prosecutors, judges or court employees.

**ESSB 6442** reauthorized OPD as an independent judicial branch agency and provided a new position for WSAC on the advisory board. Duties include advising and approving OPD's budget requests to the Legislature, making policy recommendations to the Legislature and Supreme Court, advising the director regarding administration and oversight of

OPD programs, and reviewing the director's performance. The Advisory Committee meets quarterly at SeaTac and OPD reimburses travel costs for members.

To submit your name, please send an email with your contact information and a short statement of interest to [mzahrlly@wacounties.org](mailto:mzahrlly@wacounties.org) by **May 7**. The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment.

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## **Training & Upcoming Events**

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

#### **Your input is needed!**

You are invited to participate in the Washington State Historic Preservation Plan sponsored by the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). DAHP is convening seven regional listening sessions across Washington to solicit stakeholder input on cultural and historic resource preservation issues and needs.

*What are the most important historic preservation issues in the state right now? What are the most important issues in your community?*

*How can historic preservation support community and environmental sustainability?*

*How can historic preservation promote tourism and economic development?*

**Help shape the future of Historic Preservation!**

#### **Public Meeting Dates and Locations**

Ellensburg, Monday, April 28, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Seattle, Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Bellingham, Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Olympia, Monday, May 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Walla Walla, Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Spokane, Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Vancouver, Thursday, May 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

**[Please click here for exact locations and addresses](#)**

Questions? Please contact Greg Griffith, Assistant Director, DAHP. Email: [greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov) or phone: 360-586-3073

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## **Courthouse Ramblings**

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Please note in the Directory of County Officials that Mason County Auditor Karen Herr's e-mail is incorrect. Karen's e-mail is: [karenh@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:karenh@co.mason.wa.us).

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The wacounties.org web page has made some changes; the following links are now available:

For "County" career opportunities we are now providing links to 36 county employment pages at - [www.wacounties.org/JOBS - County Links](http://www.wacounties.org/JOBS - County Links)

For other agencies and organizations (upon request) we are providing job search information at - [www.wacounties.org/JOBS - Other](http://www.wacounties.org/JOBS - Other)

For counties without an employment page, RFP's and other requests we are providing this link - [www.wacounties.org/RFPS & Other Requests](http://www.wacounties.org/RFPS & Other Requests)

Please contact Barbara Warden at 360-586-4289 ext 120 or [bwarden@wacounties.org](mailto:bwarden@wacounties.org) with any questions.

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Congratulations to San Juan Councilmember **Kevin Ranker** and his wife Tina on the welcomed addition to their family. Baby Elsa Ranker was born Thursday, April 17 weighing in at 8 lbs 2 oz. Everyone is healthy and well.

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## **WSAC Financial Services Corporation**

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### **Cooperative Purchasing for Automotive Parts and Accessories Expanded**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance "U.S. Communities" has announced three expansions of their Automotive Parts and Accessories contract under AutoZone. The expanded contract includes the following: (1) use of ALLDATA electronic diagnostic and repair information and services; (2) expansion of the delivery service model to allow for Integrated Business Service (IBS) offerings to all government agencies; and, (3) the expansion of core list products discounts in addition to the implementation of tier two level pricing.

The City of Charlotte, North Carolina, as the lead public agency for U.S. Communities, awarded AutoZone the Automotive Parts and Accessories contract in June 2006 and amended the contract to include ALLDATA in January 2007 to provide greater efficiencies, time savings and a higher level of service for all U.S. Communities participating public agencies.

ALLDATA, founded in 1986, is the leading provider of manufacturers' service and repair information, shop management software and customer relations tools for the automotive repair and collision industries. The new partnership leverages the core strengths of each organization, combining AutoZone's great pricing and customer service in Automotive Parts and Accessories and ALLDATA's state of the art information services.

The amendment to allow IBS solutions provides government agencies with the option of reviewing onsite business integration of AutoZone personnel, delivery, inventory ownership and management systems. An IBS solution can provide government agencies with greater cost savings through the reduction in capital expense associated with

inventory investments along with the efficiencies gained through quicker delivery of AutoZone products when managed onsite by experienced AutoZone parts and product specialists.

Over the last year AutoZone has experienced a rapid acceleration in the number and volume of government agencies purchasing under the City of Charlotte contract. **Overall program volume has triggered the automated discount tier system and all contract pricing will now be upgraded to tier 2 levels (additional 10% off AutoZone best zone pricing).** Additionally, based upon a detailed analysis of public sector fleet inventories across the country, AutoZone has agreed to expand the core list of products under the contract to represent 400 of the most commonly used items by government agencies. Both pricing changes will provide immediate cost savings impact to all contract users.

For more information on the Automotive Parts and Accessories Contract, please visit our website at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org).

To request additional information from AutoZone and ALLDATA, please click [here](#).

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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)

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