

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

February 12, 2010

Issue No. 5
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Courthouse Journal*

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

Washington Counties Scholarships Now Available!

It is that time of year again! Through the joint endeavor of WACO and WSAC, there are educational scholarships available to dependent children of county employees for the 2010/11 school year.

Since 1993, 75 awards have been made totaling \$140,000. The funds have been raised by auctions, challenges and lots of arm-twisting by both associations... and all for a great cause!

Start reminding your high school seniors and undergrad children to apply for a Washington Counties Scholarship. This year five \$3,000 awards will be given. Students have seven weeks to get their applications in. All applications must be postmarked no later than **April 2** and are available online at <http://wacounties.org>.

A copy of the scholarship application is also attached to this edition of *the Courthouse Journal*.

We encourage all students to apply!

WANTED: Potential Vendors for WACO Exhibit Hall

by James McMahan, WACO Staff

The 52nd Annual Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) will be here sooner than you know it. WACO is already in its fifth month of planning for the 2010 conference and is proud to share with you that the Board of Directors has approved the creation of an Exhibit Hall for the 2010 WACO Conference.

As we continue getting all of our ducks in a row, we are on the lookout for potential vendors to fill our exhibit space. If you know of any vendor that would be appropriate for the WACO Conference Exhibit Hall, we would love to have their contact information. Similarly, please feel free to share my contact information with

Job announcements & links to County Employment pages at:

<http://wacounties.org/>

the Courthouse Journal

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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

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Mark your calendars for the 52nd Annual WACO Conference – October 5-8, 2010 at the Lodge at SunCadia. You won't want to miss this one!



Happy Valentines Day!

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Twenty Eight Days Left and Counting

The first cutoff date has come and gone, and as usual, some bills made it, some are in transition, and some died.

One that made the cut is **SB 6689** Ballot Information. It was heard, executive actioned out by the committee with a unanimous “do pass” recommendation the next day and is now listed on the Senate floor calendar awaiting a pull for a vote.

SHB 1950 Change of Value Notices to All has appeared on the House floor calendar, but in reality it has been replaced by **HB 3168** Providing Taxpayers additional protections for value changes. This is a better compromise bill that is absolutely the least expensive alternative. This would extend appeal rights and timeline, at the discretion of the local Board of Equalization, for those taxpayers whose value did not change, and therefore did not receive a Change of Value Notice from the Assessor. As more counties move toward Annual Revaluation by 2014, this could become more of an issue, simply because counties will be mailing 75% more notices as they move from cyclical to annual. This way it is a preemptive strike ahead of the problem, and preserves the counties’ ability to choose whether to send notices to all, or to save money on postage and send to only those whose value changes. At the same time, this preserves the all important rights of the taxpayer. It may not sound like a big deal, but in cash strapped counties, they are forced to implement even incremental cost savings wherever they can. This bill passed out of committee with a unanimous “do pass” recommendation, and is waiting to be placed on the floor calendar. When called for a hearing, a friendly amendment will be offered that will benefit Assessors from being victimized by spurious appeals by tightening up and clarifying what appeals will qualify.

Still at issue is one Fire Patrol Assessment Bill **SSB 6766** Concerning forest fire prevention and suppression. This premise started with only a couple of bills, but grew in size dramatically. **HB 2315** became **SHB 2315**; then **HB 3170**, **SB 6082** which became **SSB 6082**; **SB 6766** which became **SSB 6766** and also **SB 6837**. All these bills in one form or another dealt with the unpopular premise of increasing and expanding the number of parcels that will pay a Fire Patrol Assessment. In some cases this could represent a substantial amount of new parcels being included under the Assessments. **SSB 6766** would implement a per parcel fee of \$4.95 on each parcel in the state, plus a \$.27 West side per acre fee and a \$.29 per acre East side fee on certain designated lands. This also still presents us with some type of refund issue, which is what started the whole thing in the first place.

Just who is going to be responsible for gathering the parcels is at odds, because Fish and Wildlife and DNR would like Assessors to do that chore, and Treasurers to Bill and collect it, and send them the money. In cash and employee strapped county offices, this may not be a viable option. This bill has the capability of generating almost \$15.8 million dollars in revenue for DNR, or almost double what the current program is collecting statewide.

2SHB 1597 Tax Administration is slowly moving, and has been placed on the 2nd Reading Calendar by the Rules committee. As you might expect, this is a rather voluminous bill, but buried deep is a change that Assessors have promoted of changing Senior Citizen Exemption Renewals from 4 years to 6 years. There again, something that cash strapped counties are looking at to save money and time wherever they can.

SSB 6797 Voters Pamphlets is causing some concern with the elections folks. This bill has been amended but it would still require 12 of the largest counties to prepare voters’ pamphlets for all elections. Not only is this an added additional expense, but the timelines presented are impossible for auditors to meet, especially when you consider they will have to wait on taxing districts to provide at least part of the documentation. This may well be a bill that is great in theory, but in practical application impossible to implement. While not a property tax issue per se, it is related and could affect at least the voting process on property tax related measures.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Bills of Interest to Prosecuting Attorneys

Bail

The House and Senate differ on what types of cases the Court should be able to deny bail in. The House ([HJR 4220](#)) has the broader version which would allow this discretion in class A felony charges. The Senate ([SJR 8218](#)) has a narrow proposal that would allow this discretion only in mandatory life sentence cases (three strike or two strike cases). Both seek to amend the State Constitution, Article I, Section 20, to allow court's to deny bail when no conditions short of detention will protect the public. There is also a statute ([HB 3056](#)) that would be enacted concurrent with any constitutional change, setting out standards for proving no conditions short of detention are effective. The statute follows the guidelines set out by the United States Supreme Court in the case of [U.S. v. Salerno](#).

Child Pornography

[HB 2424](#) and [SB 6397](#) are the AGO/WAPA proposals on child pornography. Both create a new version of possession of child pornography for repeated intentional viewing of online child pornography without actual download. They also create a compromise on the number of counts that can be charged (the unit of prosecution) which moves away from the holding in [State v. Sutherby](#). [Sutherby](#) only allows one count to be charged no matter how many pictures or how many children are involved.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

Surcharge “du Jour”

A popular legislative solution to funding problems in recent years is to attach a surcharge to fees collected in county offices. Although the county auditors' recording fee has been a perennial favorite, the fees in the county clerks' offices seem to be gaining in popularity.

Last session, \$20.00 and \$30.00 surcharges were tacked onto filing fees to fund “judicial stabilization” and this year they may well be subject to an additional \$3 for “judicial integrity” which is translated into publicly funded Supreme Court campaigns in [SB 5912](#) and earlier [HB 1738](#). [SB 5912](#) is in Senate Rules. County Clerks have been working with the prime sponsor to limit the application of the surcharge.

The \$5.00 auditors' recording fee is staggering under the weight of an additional \$57.00 in surcharges to benefit homelessness and low income housing with only \$9.00 assigned to support the recording function. As if that burden isn't heavy enough, had [SB 6648](#) moved forward, it would have added another \$40.00 added to the fee to record each notice of sale on owner-occupied residential property to protect and assist consumers and homeowners from unfair lending practices and during foreclosure proceedings. Executive action was taken in Senate Ways and Means on Monday but apparently it did not gather enough signatures to pass out of committee.

In the application of any new charge, there is a long, painful process of educating the public, attorneys, title companies and others to the increase, to say nothing of the staff. Documents submitted by mail with inadequate fees must be returned and explanations given to customers at the counter as to why “it went up again.” These days, the tremendous number of layoffs in every county makes even a small change a big deal for those remaining.

... and the question remains, “Is a surcharge on fees collected for a function in the county, and appropriate mechanism for funding state programs?”

General Government Issues

Update on WACO Legislative Package

Local option Sales Tax and Utility Tax: [HB 3179](#) and [SB 6424](#) are now the vehicles which include local option sales tax and make other measures available to relieve the fiscal woes of counties and cities. [HB 3179](#) is in House Rules but expected to be pulled and voted on over the long weekend. [SB 6424](#) is on the Senate Floor Calendar but does not include the local option utility tax and cannot be imposed by the county legislative authority. Efforts are underway to put all components of [HB 3179](#) in [SB 6424](#). They include:

- **Allow the county legislative authority to impose an existing local option sales tax up to 3/10th of one percent.**
- **Allow the county legislative authority to impose a local option utility tax.**

WACO members are urged to contact their Senators and ask them to pass [SB 6424](#) with the components that are in [HB 3179](#) and urge their Representatives to pass [HB 3179](#). Help counties help themselves!

Allow continuation of highly successful meth enforcement pilot programs in thirteen rural counties. (2 parts) - we have assurances from budget writers they are being included in discussions.

Part 1: Amend the State Fiscal Year 2010 budget to correct the allotment schedule, allowing counties to receive the full amount of the 4th year pilot funding as originally expected.

- Included in the Governor's proposed budget. Legislative proposed budgets are expected to be revealed in the coming weeks.

Part 2: Secure ongoing and permanent state financial assistance for the Sheriff, Prosecutor and Clerk in counties that have been historically underserved by federal narcotics task force funding.

- Not included in the Governor's proposed budget. Legislative proposed budgets are expected to be revealed in the coming weeks.
- **Remove the requirement that return mail ballot envelope have a secrecy flap.**
 - [HB 1880](#) passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee.
 - [SB 6430](#) is in the Senate Rules Committee is on the Senate Floor Calendar.
- **Change child pornography statutes to respond to a specific appellate court decision.**
 - [SB 6397](#) has replaced HB 2424 and is on the "green sheet" in Senate Rules awaiting one last "pull" to the Senate Floor Calendar where the body will vote on it.
- **Improve ballot title information.**

[SB 6689](#) is in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting a "pull" to the Senate Floor.

Six County Courthouses Receive Funding for 2009-11 Biennium

Since 2005, the Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program has allocated nearly \$12 million to 21 counties statewide to assist with capital improvement and rehabilitation projects designed to preserve Washington's unique collection of historic houses of justice. Projects completed to date include clock tower stabilization to the Jefferson County and Spokane County Courthouses (considered sister courthouses as they both are designs of Willis Ritchie, roof replacement and parapet restoration to the Pacific County Courthouse, the comprehensive rehabilitation of Franklin County's courthouse, along with numerous other worthwhile endeavors.

In December of last year, the Courthouse Steering Committee met in Olympia to review applications for funding in the 2009-2011 biennium. The committee reviewed 11 applications requesting over \$3.7M in grant funds – with just over \$2M in available funding, decisions were difficult. At the end of the day, 6 counties received grant awards. Garfield County lead the pack in receiving a \$1M grant. While this represented nearly half of the available funds, the proposed project consists of a comprehensive rehabilitation of the courthouse in Pomeroy. With an iconic Lady Justice statue adorning the top of the clock tower (notable for her lack of a blindfold), the courthouse is in the heart of downtown and anchors

Pomeroy's National Register-listed Historic District. Constructed in 1901, the building is in great need of attention. Garfield County has committed to spending \$1M in local funding and, combined with grant funds, plans to structurally stabilize specific building elements, rehabilitate the entire exterior shell, and restore the courtroom to its former glory.

The remaining grant recipients include:

- Clallam County: \$379,507 to assist with stabilization of the courthouse clock tower and front entry rehabilitation;
- Douglas County: \$7,268 to help with rehabilitation of leaded glass windows on the historic entry;
- Jefferson County: \$300,000 to seismically stabilize the courthouse roof;
- Lewis County: \$150,000 to repair a failing parapet wall and restore bronze entry doors;
- Spokane County: \$354,164 to implement phase 2 of a comprehensive rehabilitation, including ADA improvements and structural stabilization of the courthouse interior.

Historic rehabilitation work implemented to our county courthouses has played an important role in creating jobs and keeping dollars in the local economy. Rehabilitation work is labor intensive, thus supporting local contractors and craftspeople rather than making heavy investments in newly manufactured products. With 32 of Washington's 39 counties featuring historic courthouses, there remains much work to be done!

Boards & Commissions

County Representation Needed on ACCT

The Washington State Association of Counties seeks an elected official or department director who is able to represent Washington's counties on the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT). One position is available and is a two-year term.

The purpose of the council is to advance and improve accessibility to and coordination of special needs transportation services statewide. The council is composed of fourteen voting members and four nonvoting, legislative members.

To apply, fill out the brief statement of interest form by March 1st <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/boards.asp>

For more info on the ACCT visit: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct/>

Training & Upcoming Events

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

County Training Institute – www.countytraininginstitute.org

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training, April 12-16, 2010

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor/coroner, 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.

New Courses from the County Training Institute

County officials, staff and Affiliates can plan and register now for three outstanding professional development offerings from the County Training Institute. The courses offer either Certified Public Officials core or elective credits. To register, visit <http://www.countytraininginstitute.org>.

Planning & Facilitating Successful Meetings

Instructor: Paul Dzedzic, PDZ Consulting

March 19 – Tukwila

May 25 – Ephrata

County Government Structure: Roles & Responsibilities

Instructor: Eric Johnson, Executive Director, WSAC

April 16 – Tukwila

April 23 – Ephrata

Communication Skills for the Workplace

Instructor: Camille Buchanan

May 6 – Tukwila

May 11 – Ellensburg

Special Discount Offering to County Members and Affiliates

For a limited time, we will bring two of the most powerful business courses to your county!

Crucial Conversations: Tools for talking when stakes are high

Could a conversation (or avoiding one) be keeping you from getting the results you need? Whatever the issue—from poor productivity or declining resources to lack of teamwork or strained relationships—it's likely that you're experiencing the effects of a poorly held crucial conversation. Discover how to communicate best when it matters most! This 2-day course will provide an interactive overview of the bestselling book *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High*. Participants will receive a comprehensive toolkit, audio CD's, and the Crucial Conversations book.

For a limited time county members may book a closed session in their county for \$240 per person! This course is offered publicly for \$995 per person. That is over a 70% savings!

Participants will get:

- The Crucial Conversations book
- A comprehensive participant workbook
- Audio CD companion
- Style Under Stress Assessment
- Additional learning aids
- Group discount rates are available.

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact:

Good Things

Sheriff Remembers Days in the Big Easy

by Mike Marsh, *The Daily World*, 2/6/2010

Former center will root for saints

Ask Pacific County Sheriff John Didion who he'll be rooting for during Super Bowl XLIV between the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints and he doesn't hedge.

"You can bet I'll be rooting for the Saints," he said.



Pacific County Sheriff John Didion holds a game ball awarded to him after the Saints' 20-7 win over the Rams on Nov. 17, 1974. Didion, a former NFL linebacker and center, played for the Saints from 1971 to 1974.

The City of New Orleans and the Saints franchise occupy a special place in Didion's heart. He played center for the Black and Gold from 1971 to 1974 and even though the Saints finished in last place three out of those four seasons, Didion says he has many fond memories of playing professional football in the Big Easy.

"I treasure those years," said Didion, who was a center on Oregon State's famous "Giant Killers" team in 1967 and an All-American his senior year.

Picked in the seventh round of the 1969 NFL draft by the Washington Redskins, Didion spent two years playing in the nation's capital — including a rookie season playing for legendary coach Vince Lombardi — before shipping off to New Orleans.

"I treasured every second I played for Vince Lombardi," said Didion. "I learned more about leadership and more about football in one year from him than I did in my whole career."

After Lombardi died of cancer, Didion says "it wasn't the same" playing for the Redskins and after the 1970 season under head coach Bill Austin, he signed with the Saints.

Going from a team with a long football tradition to one that was still relatively new in the league was quite different, but "it was a chance to play for a new team and a new start," he says.

It ended up being a move that Didion didn't regret, and over the next four seasons, he solidified himself as the Saints' starting center and was voted team MVP after the 1974 season.

"That meant the most to me because it was voted on by my teammates," Didion said. "To have people you're in the trenches with give you that recognition ... it meant so much."

Didion has many other memories of his time playing in New Orleans, including his first game in a Saints uniform against the Los Angeles Rams.

“It was so incredibly hot,” remembered Didion, noting that temperatures reached 115 [degrees](#) on the field and the humidity was more than 90 percent. “It was like playing in a jungle.

“It was the only good game I had against (defensive tackle) Merlin Olsen, because he couldn’t stand up,” added Didion with a laugh.

Didion also has fond memories of quarterback Archie Manning, who was a rookie during Didion’s first season with the Saints.

“He was the original country boy,” said Didion, who remains friends with Manning, father of Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning. “He was a nice guy, laid back and incredibly talented.

“He had all the tools,” continued Didion, “but what impressed me most was his leadership. He wasn’t rah-rah, but you could see he was totally committed to winning. He pushed himself so hard and motivated the team. He helped us all become better football players.”

But perhaps Didion’s fondest memory is of the city of New Orleans and the die-hard Saints fans.

“I enjoyed the level of commitment from the fans,” said Didion. “They say football is like a religion in the south and it’s true. They were so engaged. It was incredible.

“It meant something to all of us that they supported us as fanatically as they did, even though we weren’t as successful as they wanted us to be,” he added. “It bonded us to the city.”

Didion says he continues to feel that bond and felt it particularly so after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“I really empathized with the people,” he recalled. “I was there long enough to get to know them and they were just so friendly and genuine.

“To watch them rebuild from that ... I’m just as happy for the city as I am for the team,” Didion said. “Every individual can share in the success of the Saints.”

As for a Super Bowl prediction, Didion, who admits he sweated through the Saints’ 31-28 victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC Championship, takes an offensive lineman’s view.

“I think whichever line performs the best is going to win,” he said. “I hope New Orleans gets its running game going.”

Courthouse Ramblings

WACO shares in the joy of the McMahan family this week. Kasey Randle McMahan came into the world not-too-quietly at 7:21 a.m. the morning of February 9. Kasey weighed in at 7 lb. 11 oz., is 18 ½ inches long, and is the son of WACO Deputy Director **James McMahan** and his wife Amanda. They are delighted with their offspring, but reports say Kasey’s sister, 2 year old Emma, is “not too sure.” We wish Kasey and his family the very best!

Attachments

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

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

(866) 472-7467 | 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.

County Sales-Tax Increase Discussed for Justice System

by Keith Ervin, Seattle Times

King County's elected criminal-justice leaders, warning of a public-safety "catastrophe" unless police and courts get more money, are testing the waters for a sales-tax increase of up to 3 cents on a \$10 purchase.

The increase would push the Seattle area's sales-tax rate "already among the highest in the nation" from 9.5 percent to as much as 9.8 percent.

If approved by voters in the August primary election, the added tax would prevent more job cuts in the sheriff's and prosecutor's offices, and in District and Superior courts, Sheriff Sue Rahr and County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg said Thursday.

It also could replace the dilapidated Youth Services Center in Seattle.

Quiet talks about a possible proposal became more public Wednesday night when Rahr and Satterberg made a presentation to officials from 27 cities at a meeting of the Suburban Cities Association's Public Issues Committee.

"We are building a coalition with the cities" for a ballot measure, Rahr said in an interview.

Proposing to raise taxes amid high unemployment and when the Legislature is also considering tax increases, Rahr said, means "we have to make our case" that the needs are great and the money will be well spent.

The Metropolitan King County Council would decide whether to put a measure on the ballot. Rahr and Satterberg have been working on a proposal for weeks with Superior Court Presiding Judge Bruce Hilyer and District Court Presiding Judge Barbara Linde.

The four said they don't yet know what size tax would be supported by other county and city officials, but they plan to announce a specific proposal Feb. 23.

If voters approve the additional 0.3 percent tax, Satterberg said, the tax would cost a family of four about \$60 a year. It would raise \$126 million or more a year, with 40 percent going to cities and 60 percent to the county.

At least one-third of the amount would have to be spent on criminal justice or fire protection, under state law.

The rest of the county's share could be used to preserve public-health services and restore county funding for human services, advocates said.

Unless taxes are raised, the county's general fund will face \$150 million in cumulative budget cuts in 2011 and 2012, Hilyer said.

"Nobody believes we can squeeze \$150 million in efficiencies. We're stuck with an antiquated system of revenues the county is built on. ... We need to put this on the ballot before we have a budget catastrophe." Without more revenue, Hilyer said, court security will be at risk, Family Court Services eliminated and other "essential" jobs lost.

Criminal-justice agencies can't escape major cuts because they account for three-quarters of the county's general fund, the officials said. The Sheriff's Office, which has already eliminated its vice, identity-theft and domestic-violence units, now faces the prospect of closing storefront offices and reducing patrols, Rahr said. "We're talking about devastating cuts in the future."

Linde said District Court is on "the brink" of having to eliminate probation services, and Satterberg said his office is facing the possibility of laying off more prosecutors.

Federal Way Mayor Linda Kochmar said she believes the criminal-justice officials are making "a strong case" for a tax increase, but added she doesn't know if her colleagues on the City Council will agree with her.

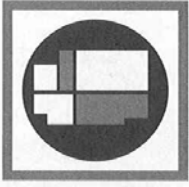
Other officials were more cautious. Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn's spokesman, Mark Matassa, said the mayor is focused on the waterfront sea wall and the property-tax increase he is seeking from voters to replace it, and "hasn't addressed" a possible sales-tax increase.

Bellevue spokesman Tim Waters said city officials are "just learning about" the possible ballot issue and haven't briefed the City Council. County Council Chairman Bob Ferguson, who opposed a sales-tax increase last year, said it would be "premature" for him to endorse or oppose the emerging proposal.

But with a large shortfall looming in next year's budget, he said, "I don't think we can make \$60 million in cuts in a way that the average King County citizen would find acceptable."

County Executive Dow Constantine, who in last year's election campaign said taxes shouldn't be raised during a severe recession, is focusing his attention on steps that will cut spending, spokesman Frank Abe said.

"That still leaves a large gap that must be addressed," Abe said. "He looks forward to a thoughtful dialogue on this issue." County Councilmember Julia Patterson said it is "a terrible time for a tax increase, but it's also a terrible time to be cutting sheriff's deputies and the efficiency of our court system and those fundamental human services that keep people out of jail and save their lives."



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 12, 2010

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 Friday, April 2, 2010. Awards will be made in early May of 2009 for the 2010/11 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

2010/11 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 2010/11: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Certification

Names of Parents: _____ Phone: _____

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 Friday, April 2, 2010. 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.

2010/11 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



Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners

WACME Class Registration

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

This course is available to death investigators including prosecutor/coroner, 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.

Priority will be given to Coroner, Medical Examiner, and Prosecutor/Coroner personnel. **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 40 STUDENTS (ONE SLOT PER COUNTY)**. All others wishing to register will be allowed as space provides and will be considered after March 26. *Attendees must attend the entire session to receive training credit.*

Cost: Training Course is being provided by WACME and no fee is required. Some meals included.

Registration: Contact Kathie with WACO, send to 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812.
Deadline for registrations is March 26, 2010.

Training Date: April 12-16, 2010

Training Location: Cowlitz Regional Conference Center, NE Loowit Room, 1900 7th Avenue, Longview, WA.

Lodging Location: Comfort Inn/Kelso, 440 Three Rivers Drive, Kelso, WA 98626. A block of non-smoking rooms is being held at the hotel at a special rate of \$76.99 plus tax. Rooms include a free full breakfast. The Registrants are required to make their own reservations. Reservations Phone: 1-360-425-4600

Questions: Contact WACO at 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

April 12-16, 2010

PREREGISTRATION:

Preregistration is required. **Registration deadline is March 26, 2010.**

Please complete this application and send to:

WACO, Attn: Kathie Houts, 206 10th Ave SE, Olympia WA 98501

khouts@wacounties.org

Phone: (360) 753-7319

Fax: (360) 664-2812

GENERAL COURSE APPLICATION

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

Additional Applicants

Applicants Name:	Title	e-mail

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. Mileage reimbursement will only be paid to registrants who live 50 miles or more from the training.