

COUNTY ASSESSORS END OF 2011 SESSIONS REPORT



Purpose

This report, prepared by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) has two main purposes:

1. Informing County Assessors, and their staff, on RCW changes made during the 2011 Legislative Sessions of the Washington State Legislature relevant to the duties and functions of the Office of County Assessor; and
2. Inform County Assessors of other notable legislative efforts during the 2011 Legislative Sessions of the Washington State Legislature that did not pass.

This report covers bills from the 2011 Regular Session and the 2011 Special Session and is current as of Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Organization

Bills that Passed the 2011 Legislative Sessions..... Page 2
Notable Bills that Did NOT Pass the 2011 Legislative Sessions Pages 3-5

Notes

During the 2011 Sessions (Regular and Special), there were 2,612 bills introduced (1,347 House Bills and 1,265 Senate bills). Of the 2,612 bills introduced, only 444 (17%) passed the Legislature.

All in all, there were 135 days of session to date in 2011 (105 days in the Regular Session and 30 days in the Special Session).

The 2012 Legislative Session convenes on Monday, January 9 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 8, 2012.

Disclaimer

This report should not be considered legal advice, nor should it be considered any official guide for all legislative changes. It is an informative service provided by WACO to its members. Please seek legal advice from your County Prosecutor and reference the official copy of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) as published by the Washington State Statute Law Committee.

BILLS PASSED THE 2011 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Number	Brief Description	Affected RCW(s)	Governor's Action	Effective Date
HB 1731	AN ACT Relating to the formation, operation, and governance of regional fire protection service authorities.	Amending RCW 52.26.020, 52.26.040, 52.26.080, and 84.52.044.	Signed	7/22/11
HB 1826	AN ACT Relating to providing taxpayers additional appeal protections for value changes.	Amending RCW 84.40.038; and creating a new section.	Signed	7/22/11
HB 1854	AN ACT Relating to annexation of territory by regional fire protection service authorities.	Amending RCW 52.26.100 and 84.52.044; and adding a new section to chapter 52.26 RCW.	Signed	7/22/11
HB 1969	AN ACT Relating to the exemption of flood control zone districts that are coextensive with a county from certain limitations upon regular property tax levies.	Amending RCW 84.52.010 and 84.52.043; adding a new section to chapter 84.52 RCW.	Signed	7/22/11
SB 5359	AN ACT Relating to contiguous land under current use open space property tax programs.	Amending RCW 84.34.020, 84.33.035, 84.33.078, and 82.04.333.	Signed	7/22/2011
SB 5628	AN ACT Relating to a limited property tax exemption from the emergency medical services levy.	Amending RCW 84.52.069; and creating new sections.	Signed	7/22/2011
SB 5638	AN ACT Relating to the exemption of certain taxing districts.	Amending RCW 84.52.010, 84.52.010, 84.52.120, and 84.52.---; creating a new section.	Signed	Various

**OTHER NOTABLE BILLS FROM THE 2011 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION
(NOT PASSED)**

Bill Number	Brief Description
HB 1042	Providing a property tax exemption for property held under lease, sublease, or lease-purchase by a nonprofit organization that provides job training, placement, or preemployment services.
HB 1095	Regarding payments in lieu of taxes for lands managed by the department of fish and wildlife.
HB 1139	Concerning providing agencies notice of a dispute under the public records act and an opportunity to cure error in the production of public records.
HB 1158	Concerning ballot title information.
HB 1283	Including utility easements and rights-of-way in the acreage calculation under the open space taxation act.
HB 1286	Concerning the tax preference review process.
HB 1287	Establishing a government-to-government relationship between state government and Indian tribes.
HB 1297	Concerning the relinquishment of a water right.
HB 1300	Regarding the recovery of the costs of production and copying of public records.
HB 1308	Increasing the flexibility for industrial development district levies for public port districts.
HB 1338	Requiring multiparcel real estate transactions to base the real estate excise tax on the greater of assessed value or purchase price.
HB 1359	Modifying advance property tax payments for plats.
HB 1380	Concerning the relinquishment of a water right.
HB 1381	Regarding sufficient cause for the nonuse of water.
HB 1385	Concerning a limited property tax exemption from the emergency medical services levy.
HB 1423	Encouraging economic development by exempting certain counties from the forest land compensating tax.
HB 1427	Adjusting timber tax account distribution calculations.
HB 1446	Removing essential government services as a condition to exempt from taxation property belonging to any federally recognized Indian tribe located in the state.
HB 1448	Requiring the state to retrocede civil jurisdiction over Indians and Indian territory, reservations, country, and lands.
HB 1476	Adjusting voting requirements for emergency medical service levies.
HB 1553	Concerning the annual rent rate for marinas.
HB 1589	Concerning trust water rights.
HB 1610	Regarding the management of water resources.
HB 1660	Authorizing multijurisdiction flood control zones.
HB 1687	Improving transparency and providing greater information to property taxpayers.
HB 1786	Providing additional property tax levy flexibility in order to preserve and enhance the veterans and human services safety net.
HB 1841	Addressing management and consolidation of state information technology.

NOT PASSED THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

NOT PASSED THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

HB 1843	Allowing leased land used for the placement of a mobile home to qualify for the senior, disabled, and veteran property tax exemption.
HB 1855	Making certain unfunded mandates optional for political subdivisions.
HB 1942	Allowing a deduction for social security disability payments and medicare supplement insurance premiums in the calculation of disposable income under low-income, disabled, and retired person property tax relief programs.
HB 1996	Providing tax exemptions for storm water mitigation projects.
HB 2045	Providing for fairness, equity, and transparency of tax preferences for federally recognized Indian tribes.
HB 2094	Implementing recommendations related to the tax preference review process conducted by the joint legislative audit and review committee and the citizen commission for performance measurement of tax preferences.
HB 2100	Narrowing the property tax exemption for intangibles.
HJR 4208	Requiring a three-fifths majority vote for approval of tax increase legislation.
HJR 4212	Requiring a two-thirds majority vote for approval of tax increase legislation.
HJR 4213	Placing restrictions on tax increases.
HJR 4214	Authorizing the state legislature to dissolve and reorganize counties under certain financial conditions.
SB 5017	Providing a property tax exemption for property held under lease, sublease, or lease-purchase by a nonprofit organization that provides job training, placement, or preemployment services.
SB 5143	Addressing the annexation of unincorporated areas served by fire protection districts.
SB 5169	Encouraging economic development by exempting certain counties from the forest land compensating tax.
SB 5222	Increasing the flexibility for industrial development district levies for public port districts.
SB 5265	Authorizing multijurisdiction flood control zones.
SB 5267	Providing fairness in government regulation of property.
SB 5294	Regarding hours of availability of cities, towns, and special purpose districts for inspection and copying of public records.
SB 5305	Removing essential government services as a condition to exempt from taxation property belonging to any federally recognized Indian tribe located in the state.
SB 5342	Concerning the standard of evidence for appeals of valuation of property for purposes of taxation.
SB 5360	Delaying or modifying certain regulatory and statutory requirements affecting cities and counties.
SB 5373	Addressing fire suppression efforts and capabilities on unprotected land outside a fire protection jurisdiction.
SB 5379	Identifying and incentivizing taxpayer savings and efficient delivery of government services.
SB 5381	Adjusting voting requirements for emergency medical service levies.
SB 5512	Increasing public access to public records.
SB 5550	Concerning the annual rent rate for marinas.
SB 5567	Adjusting the property tax levy lid limits for certain local services.

NOT PASSED THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS	SB 5587	Expiring an underutilized deferral program in the department of revenue under chapter 84.37 RCW.
	SB 5611	Regarding the use of designated agricultural lands.
	SB 5675	Concerning real property tax assessment administration, establishing procedures and authorizing fees for assessment review.
	SB 5814	Extending current use valuation to the residential property of small farms that is integral to the use of classified land for agricultural purposes.
	SB 5859	Concerning accountability for tax exempt hospitals.
	SB 5949	Repealing the tax exemption on intangible property to provide funding for essential government services.