



During the 2011 legislative session, WSAC pursued a fiscal health package that sought additional local revenue options, flexibility within existing revenue sources, increased public health and human services funding, flexibility in how we conduct business and a reduction of harm from state budget reductions.

Counties made some progress with the 2011 fiscal health package. The Legislature provided temporary flexibility with some of the existing revenue sources as well as existing business practices. They also maintained most of the funding with the shared state revenue sources.

However, the revenue forecast for the rest of the biennium has dropped over \$1.6 billion. This dramatic drop in revenue will require substantial reductions in the state's general fund budget. Most of these reductions will directly affect counties ability to provide the critical services our citizens are demanding.

## **WSAC 2012 Legislative Agenda:**

### **Maximize Limited Resources**

- Repeal the non-supplant requirement in the 1/10 mental health sales tax
- Remove veterans, mental health, developmental disabilities and conservation futures property tax levies from the limit and index them to IPD
- Require single audits from state agencies
- Require other taxing districts to help pay for the actual cost of collecting, processing, notifying, assessing, appealing and paying bank fees on property taxes
- Allow building permit fees to help pay for long-term land use planning
- Require cities to help pay for public health
- Suspend state land acquisition for conservation until there is full funding for adequate maintenance and PILT payments for those land purchases

### **Support Economic Recovery**

- Create a public works investment system for the 21st Century
- Streamline permitting processes by minimizing outdated and unnecessary SEPA reviews, and implementing alternative approaches for Hydraulic Project Approvals
- Seek assistance for timber counties that are disproportionately impacted by ESA restrictions
- Obtain clarity and assistance for counties as they implement their legal responsibilities in the use of exempt wells for development projects

*Continues on Reverse...*



## **Control the Costs of Providing Services**

- Provide substantial relief from the update requirements or fully fund GMA and SMA
- Limit the Ecology's authority to exceed federal standards for the municipal storm water permit
- Reduce the frequency of state audits if there is no history of management findings by department or county
- Seek proactive public records requirements that address the costs associated with the burgeoning public records requests
- Allow us to utilize technology to improve legal notice and reduce costs
- Seek options for creating sustainable personnel related costs
- Repeal non-essential reports and expensive and conflicting criteria
- Allow counties to contract out for certain state audits
- Remove or suspend burdensome and costly administrative and reporting requirements from human services programs
- The state should pursue opportunities to transfer parks to local governments who have local funding sources to provide maintenance and operation
- Streamline the GMA appeal process so that there is greater certainty for local governments who have limited resources for planning

## **Maintain Essential State Financial Assistance**

- Additional funding into the county/city financial assistance program -6050
- Maintain funding for public health and human service programs
- Maintain existing state shared revenues (criminal justice, streamlined sales tax, Liquor taxes, public health)

## **Provide New Local Revenue Authorities in Order to Diversify the Tax Base**

- Local authority for a utility tax for the unincorporated areas
- Local authority for a mineral resource severance tax (sand and gravel)
- Transportation/transit funding

## **Help Keep Our Communities Safe**

- Provide additional tools to help our communities prevent gang violence
- Help ensure the safe disposal of prescription drugs
- Support local health jurisdictions in examining the current public health funding governance, service delivery and funding options