

Courthouse Journal

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

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

August 3, 2001
Issue No. 14

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Odd Year Vacancies Draw Numerous Candidates

An unusually large number of county vacancies have resulted in more races than is normal in an uneven year election. Normally the charter counties of King, Snohomish and Whatcom would have been the only ones with scheduled elections. However, this year there are fifteen other counties that have vacancies in various offices triggering an election with 35 positions. There are fourteen council positions up for election, five auditors, four sheriffs, three assessors, three treasurers, two prosecuting attorneys, one commissioner, one clerk, one coroner and one executive.

The following persons have filed for county

positions. For partisan positions there will be no primary if only one candidate from each major political party files for office per 29.15.150 RCW. For non-partisan offices, there will be no primary for positions where two or fewer candidates have filed per 29.21.015 RCW.

Adams County Assessor

Dave Anderson – R *
Steve McPherson - R

Asotin County Prosecuting Attorney

Ben Nichols – D *

(Continued on page 2)

Fiscal Impact Estimates for Fall Initiatives Available

On August 1, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) released estimates of the fiscal impacts of I-747 (Property Taxes) and I-775 (Long Term Care). The estimates for I-747 include estimates by county for types of district for six years from 2002 to 2007. Estimates are also available for individual cities in each county. Because I-747 limits all regular levies, counties, cities, ports, fire districts, libraries, hospital districts and other local districts will see changes in tax capacity under the initiative.

While many counties have limited their levy growth to two percent or less in recent years, the I-747 one percent limit would result in additional reductions in revenue growth. The estimate shows the compounding feature of the proposed limit. Losses to current expense funds would start at \$9.8 million in 2002 and grow to \$76.1 million per year in 2007. Similarly, road fund losses would start at \$6.7 mil-

lion in 2002 and grow to \$50.2 million per year in 2007.

Junior districts that are heavily dependent on property taxes would see similar patterns. Fire districts revenue reductions would grow from \$7.4 million in 2002 to \$50.7 million per year in 2007. Emergency Medical Service levies yields would decrease by \$2.1 million in 2002 and by \$15.5 million per year by 2007.

Early polling continues to show a generally positive attitude toward I-747, so counties should take this into account in their budget planning. In the past, we have found many of the junior districts have been unprepared to deal with the passage of initiatives. Many of these districts are critical partners with counties in delivering public safety and health services. Because I-747 does not suffer from the drafting flaws of some prior initiatives, it is important that all local taxing districts take the budget consequences of this measure seriously.

(Continued from page 1)

Chelan County Commissioner

Buell E Hawkins, Jr – R *

Chelan County Coroner

Gina M. Fino – R *

Clallam County Auditor

Cathleen McKeown – NP *

Columbia County Treasurer

K. Kay Britton -Vachal – R *

Franklin County Clerk

Mike Killian – D *

Grant County Coroner

Jerry D. Jasman - *

Grays Harbor County Assessor

Darrell Haglund – D *

Gregory J Mooney – D

Edward Prkut – D

King County Executive

Ron Sims - D *

Santos Contreras - R

Alan Lobdell - R

King County Sheriff

Dave Reichert - NP

King County Council District No. 1

Carolyn Edmonds – D

Kelly Snyder – R

Ed Sterner – R

King County Council District No. 3

Kristy Sullivan – D

Kathy Lambert – R

King County Council District No. 5

Dwight Pelz – D *

Mark Wheeler – D

Michael Prime – R

King County Council District No. 7

Pete von Reichbauer – R *

King County Council District No. 9

Kent Pullen – R *

King County Council District No. 11

Jane Hague – R *

King County Council District No. 13

Les Thomas – R *

Julia Patterson – D

Pam Roach – R

Michael Jepson – GRN

Kittitas County Auditor

David B Bowen – D *

Klickitat County Assessor

H.J. “Van” Vandenburg – R *

Ronee’ Bothamley - R

Klickitat County Sheriff

Chris Mace – R *

Mason County Treasurer

Elizabeth Frazier – D *

Okanogan County Sheriff

Mike Murray – D *

Candy Gamache – L

Okanogan County Treasurer

Delmer L. Shove – D *

Diana Kennedy Alonso – L

Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney

Gerald Horne – D *

Joanna Daniels – D

Skagit County Auditor

Norma Hickok-Brummett – R *

Jackie Brunson – D

Snohomish County Council No. 1

Mike Ashley – D *

Chris Laird – D

John Koster – R

Snohomish County Council No. 4

Pam Pruitt – R

Dave Gossett – D

Dave Schmidt – R

Snohomish County Council No. 5

Dave Somers – D *

Terry Laxton – R

Don Polson – L

Chad Minnick – R

Jeff Sax – R

Thurston County Auditor

Kim Wyman – R *

Whatcom Co Council Positions are Non-Partisan

Whatcom County Council At Large

Marlene Dawson *

Barry Buchanan

Seth Fleetwood

Whatcom Co Council 1, Position A

Ward Nelson *

Sherry Jubilo

Whatcom Co Council 2, Position A

Albert R. Schreiber

Ron Roosma

David Bromley

Laurie Caskey- Schreiber

Don Gischer

Whatcom Co Council 3, Position A

Sharon Roy

Bob Wiesen

Warren E Hanson

Yakima County Auditor

Corky Mattingly – D *

Howard DeWitt – R

Jim Ducharme – R

Yakima County Sheriff

Ken Irwin – R *

John Tierney - R

* Denotes Incumbent

The Courthouse Journal

The Courthouse Journal is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

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WSAC Steering Committee Announced Legislative Steering Committee Membership Completed; Schedule Set

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee for 2001-02 has been named by WSAC President Mike Shelton and we will begin developing the Legislative Agenda for the 2002 session at a meeting September 7 at the Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass. Co-chairs for the

2001-02 Committee are Commissioner Chris Endresen of Kitsap County and Commissioner Mary Hunt of Douglas County.

A second meeting of the Legislative Steering Committee will take place on October 26 in Yakima and a third in

Silverdale on November 14, the day before the Legislative Conference.

The Legislative Conference convenes at 8:00 a.m., November 15, with adoption of the 2002 Legislative Agenda the following morning.

Joining the Legislative Steering Committee for the first time are Skagit County Commissioner Don Munks, Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch, both members of the Class of 2001. The full membership of the Committee is published elsewhere in this issue.

State Revenue Collections Lag

The State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council's report on actual revenue collections showed a shortfall of \$23.6 million compared to forecast for the month ending July 11, 2001. The shortfall was spread across all tax sources except liquor. A softening of high end real estate prices and sales in King County resulted in a real decline in state and local Real Estate Excise Tax receipts. If the overall pattern continues, the state will face a tough supplemental budget process next year. The

next state forecast update is scheduled for September. Detailed information is available at the Forecast Council web site at: www.ofc.wa.gov

Washington is not alone in its budget woes. The National Conference of State Legislatures has just released a report outlining the fiscal "state of the states". A number of states failed to adopt a budget on time. Many raised taxes, cut budgets or both. Legislative gridlock was widespread and a number of governors wielded aggressive veto

powers. States reduced their total reserves by 22% from \$43.7 billion to \$34.1 billion. On average, states' revenues grew by 4.5% while their expenditures grew by 9.1%. States' expenditure growth was driven by rising Medicaid costs. (Medicaid is a joint state and federal program to provide health care for low-income seniors, disabled and families.) Despite the strain on many budgets, states continued to enact tax cuts. The total tax changes nationwide net to a cut of \$3.3 billion. The report, with an executive summary is available at: www.ncsl.org

Environment, Land Use & Resources Shorelines Funding - What Next?

All 39 counties and 205 cities are mandated to update local Shoreline Master Programs by December 2002. Efforts to secure funding support to meet this mandate and stagger implementation timelines beyond 2002 failed during the regular and special legislative

sessions.

Thirty-three counties and over 150 individual cities have officially submitted claim forms to the state requesting funding for this mandated work. These claims forms lie unfunded within the offices of the House Appropriations and

Senate Ways and Means Committees.

Most of those counties have already challenged the shorelines guidelines – and the lack of funding for them – in a lawsuit pending at the Pollution Control Hearings Board. Many cities are considering whether to bring legal action challenging the state to provide funds for this unfunded mandate. If any counties are interested in joining with cities to bring a suit, please contact Paul Parker at WSAC.

Senator Tim Sheldon Asks for Attorney General Opinion on Scope of Rural Counties Sales Tax Credit

Senator Tim Sheldon (D-Mason County) has asked the Washington Attorney General for a formal published opinion on the scope of the rural county sales tax credit for economic development, RCW 82.14.370. In summary, the opinion asks:

1. May a county use revenues derived from the local option sales and use tax program for rural counties, authorized under RCW 82.14.370, to finance

any or all of the following costs related to public facilities: (1) Capital facilities costs, including acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvements of public facilities; (2) costs of development and improvements for the public facilities; (3) project-specific environmental costs; (4) land use and permitting costs; (5) costs of site planning and analysis; and (6) project design, including feasibility and market-

ing studies and plans, and debt and revenue impact analysis?

2. Does the requirement in RCW 82.14.370(3) that a public facility must be listed as an item in an officially adopted county overall economic development plan, or the economic development section of a county's comprehensive plan, or the comprehensive plan of a city or town located within the county

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for those counties planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) mean that the public facility must have an economic development purpose such as permanent private sector job creation or retention (beyond the jobs created directly in constructing a project)?

3. Is the answer to question 2 the same for those counties that do not have an adopted overall economic development plan and do not plan under the GMA, where RCW 82.14.370(3) requires that the public facilities must be listed in the county's capital facilities plan or the capital facilities plan of a city

or town located within the county?

4. If the answer to question 3 is yes, what is the standard, if any, by which a county must determine whether a public facility has an economic development purpose?

Any county interested in commenting on the request should notify the Attorney General's Office of that interest by August 8, 2001. This is not the due date by which comments must be received. However, if you do not notify the Attorney General's Office of your interest in commenting on an opinion request by August 8, 2001, the opinion may be issued before your comments

have been received. You may notify the Attorney General's Office of your intention to comment by calling (360) 586-4218, or by writing to the Solicitor General, Office of the Attorney General, P. O. Box 40100, Olympia, WA 98504-0100.

When you notify the office of your intention to comment, you will be provided with a copy of the opinion request in which you are interested; information about the Attorney General's Opinion process; information on how to submit your comments; and a due date by which your comments must be received to ensure that they are fully considered.

Boards & Commissions

Recruiting 'Alternates' for State E-911 Committee

WSAC has recently learned that the state Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee's bylaws provide for "alternates" to attend and vote on committee business when a Committee member is unable to attend.

To ensure county representation at all Committee meetings, WSAC would like to formally appoint alternates for the two WSAC positions on the E-911 Commit-

tee. One alternate must be an Eastern Washington commissioner; one must be a Western Washington commissioner. These back-up appointments will be made directly by the WSAC Board of Directors or Executive Committee. If interested, please contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at sbyrd@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886, by August 30, 2001.

The alternates will receive all meet-

ing information and will be asked to attend when the primary members are unable to. The E-911 Committee meets monthly at SeaTac. WSAC's primary representatives on the Committee are Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Graedel representing Eastern counties and Pacific County Commissioner Jon Kaino representing Western counties.

County Position Open on Emergency Management Council

The recent resignation of Mason County Commissioner Mary Jo Cady leaves open a county position on the state Emergency Management Council, which advises the governor on state and local emergency management issues. The governor will appoint a new county representative from nominees submitted by the Washington State Association of Counties.

County officials interested in filling this position should contact Sophia Byrd

of the WSAC staff (sbyrd@wacounties.org; 360-753-1886) by August 15, 2001. The WSAC Board of Directors will select two or three nominees and will forward these applicants to the governor's office for his final appointment.

Pursuant to RCW 38.52.040, the Emergency Management Council develops specific recommendations for the improvement of emergency management practices statewide. It also advises the

governor on statewide emergency preparedness relating to various issues, including hazard mitigation, seismic safety, floods, and hazardous materials.

The Council meets every other month, usually at Camp Murray near Tacoma. The term of service on the council is indefinite. Commissioner Cady reports that regular attendance is important due to counties' integral role in almost all matters relating to emergency management.

Meetings & Conferences

WSAC, AWC Sponsor Energy Conference on August 8th & 9th

WSAC, the Association of Washington Cities and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance are co-sponsoring "Taking Back Our Energy Future" on August 8th and 9th in Yakima. The Conference will focus on managing through the evolving energy situation as an energy consumer and an energy provider. (Many cities provide energy, but no county does.) It is an excellent training opportunity for building operators and employees with responsi-

bility for energy efficiency.

The keynote speaker is the provocative Cyrus Noe, editor of the ClearingUp newsletter. Plenary sessions address the topics:

Drought, Water, Fish and Energy
Energy Prices
Energy Codes
Winter Blackouts

Breakout sessions include the topics

of energy conservation methods, budgeting during energy cost uncertainty, and water and wastewater system impacts.

Registration for the Conference is \$95. Brochures including the registration form have been sent to many county offices, but if you didn't get one or can't find it, you can access a registration form on the webpage for the Association of Washington Cities: www.awcnet.org. Click on "Training", then "August", then "Registration Form".

News in Brief

JESERNIG LEAVING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Department of Agriculture Director Jim Jesernig this week announced plans to leave the agency late this fall, departing a cabinet post he has held since 1993. Jesernig was first appointed to head the Department of Agriculture by former Gov. Mike Lowry and was re-appointed by Gov. Gary Locke.

Jesernig will be joining the Perkins Coie law firm in Olympia, working on public policy issues. Perkins Coie, headquartered in Seattle, is the Northwest's largest law firm with more than 500 lawyers serving clients from offices throughout the United States and Asia.

Prior to joining the state Department of Agriculture, Jesernig, a native of Kennewick, served the southeast Washington farming communities of the 8th Legislative District for seven years as state senator and representative. He was Senate majority floor leader in 1993.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING

The Fall 2001 meeting of the Eastern District, WSAC, takes place September 27 and 28 in Douglas County. Workshops take place at Mickey O'Reilly's Hotel and Conference Center in East Wenatchee, and activities include a tour

of the Rocky Reach dam and a dinner at the Rocky Reach Visitor Center. Agenda highlights include:

- County Success Stories
- What the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Means to Counties
- Counties & Conservation Districts
- Farmworker Housing
- Initiative 747
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants
- The Media and Your Message

The agenda and other meeting information will be available soon on our website, www.wacounties.org/wsac.

Registration forms have been sent to all Eastern District Commissioners and are attached to this Courthouse Journal.

SKAMANIA COUNTY GETS NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACILITY

Skamania County dedicated a new Criminal Justice Facility on June 22. The facility, adjacent to the existing courthouse complex, added 50 jail beds and approximately 20,000 square feet of space and cost \$5.5 million. Construction took just under one year and includes a remodel of the existing Sheriff's Office, conversion of the old jail to a 12-bed work release facility, and incorporates all the main Sheriff's Office administrative operations into one facility. Hoffman Construction Company of Portland Oregon provided Construction

Management Services for the project.

SALARY SURVEY MAILED TO COUNTIES - The 2001 edition of the City and County Salary & Benefit Survey was mailed to county courthouses starting August 2nd. You should be receiving your copy shortly.

As in years past, the Washington State Association of Counties has contracted with the Local Government Personnel Institute (a division of the Association of Washington Cities) to collect salary data for more than 80 county positions, along with information on benefits provided to county employees.

For the ninth year in a row, all thirty-nine counties in the state responded to the survey! The survey includes comparative information from 263 cities as well.

This year, the survey data is also available in an electronic version, for no charge. The survey database allows you to create custom salary and benefit reports, using your own list of comparable jurisdictions. The order form for the electronic version was sent with the surveys -- just fill it out and mail it to AWC. Note: The electronic version is available to those who represent management only.

If you have any questions you may contact Deanna Krell at the Association of Washington Cities, phone (360) 753-4137 or email deannak@awcnet.org

WACO Conference Registration Out Soon

WACO members will be receiving Annual Conference Registrations by mail within the next two weeks. This year's conference will be held at the Port Ludlow Resort, in Port Ludlow, October 2-5. Below is a synopsis of the conference and some advice on booking rooms (condos) at the Resort.

This year, Tuesday, October 2, will be devoted to training sessions, running one after the other all day, in an effort to increase chances for county officials to earn credit in the new Certified Public Official (CPO) program that is in development, taking the place of the County Officials Training and Certification Course (COTCC). The first session, from 9:00-12:00 will be a workshop on the *Family and Medical Leave Act and Workplace Harassment*, presented by Gil Sparks an attorney from Wenatchee. The afternoon sessions will be one hour

each, running consecutively, and will be presented by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA). Topics will be *Labor Law 101* (1:30-2:30), *Contracts 101* (2:30-3:30), and *Public Disclosure/Public Records 101* (3:30-4:30).

The opening general session Wednesday, October 3, will include a keynote address by Dr. Stephen Douglas, a psychologist from Ohio, who has consistently received high reviews for his presentations across the country, and a panel of professionals who will discuss the initiative process in this state from various viewpoints.

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday will be devoted to affiliate meetings and training, and the Thursday evening banquet will be a tribute to retiring WACO Executive Director Fred Saeger. The Friday business meeting will include

adoption of the 2002 Legislative package.

Room rates at the Resort are \$95.00 for a single room. Because the units are all condominium suites, there are a variety of room setups and choices to make before making a reservation. Each "suite" can be broken up into three or four bedrooms, with individual baths. Two of the rooms have outside entries. We would suggest, however, that you get together with other county officials and share the suites rather than the individual rooms and you will get a fully furnished living and dining area, kitchen, fireplace and deck or patio. This will cost only \$50 per night in addition to the room rate, but that would be split by everyone. In addition, some of the rooms in the suites have two queen size beds, if you want to double up and save money that way.

The number at the Port Ludlow Resort is (360) 437-2222 or toll free at

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1-800-732-1239. Be sure to ask lots of questions when making your reservations so that you are sure to get what you want as far as sleeping arrangements.

Good Things

Diversion Program for Bad Check Writers

Mason County has joined Thurston County as the second jurisdiction in the state to implement a check enforcement program. The program involves low-level bad checks and the effort to cut down on law enforcement involvement and expense. Mason County Prosecutor Gary Burlison entered into a contract with a company that locates the offenders for merchants and arranges for full restitution. The second part of the program is a three-hour educational component so that the number of repeat

This could be a lot of fun if people will share the suites!

Look for registrations soon, which will outline all of the meetings, social events and activities!

offenders is reduced. Those who write the bad checks pay for the entire cost of the program by paying a fee on top of the restitution and bank charges. If the offender goes through the program, he or she does not have to appear before a judge. The program has worked well in Thurston County by keeping law enforcement focused on more serious issues and is saving money by cutting down on prosecutions.

Skagit County Assessor's Office Rises to Challenge

(Reprinted with permission- by Shawn Kyes, Property Tax Specialist, Department of Revenue)

Skagit County Assessor's Office: In 1994, Mark Leander was elected Skagit County Assessor. At the time, the office was facing a number of challenges. A drastic increase in population and concerns about the Growth Management Act had caused a significant increase in required parcel administration (segregation work). The number of parcels with new construction had nearly doubled in five years, which added to the workload. Only adding to the problems was an ever-increasing number of appeals. Requests for additional resources to meet the increasing workloads were not funded and Skagit County was consistently running five to six months late in the assessment cycle.

Mr. Leander and his chief deputy, Wes Hagen, began to look for answers. They started by making some organizational and operational changes. One change was to remove the residential appraisers from the appeal process. This was accomplished by designating a review appraiser to handle all residential appeals. By using a review appraiser, the preparation time for appeals was reduced by 50%. In large part this was because the reviewer became more proficient in presentations, and also because an objec-

tive review permitted appropriate adjustments when necessary. The residential appraisers now have an additional 6 weeks available to devote to the reval and or new construction, without having to look over their shoulder and wonder about the appeals.

Although many of the changes implemented were helping, the county still found itself late in the assessment cycle. In 1996, with the cooperation of the assessor and staff, DOR conducted a limited review of the assessor's office. The review included a look at past, present, and projected workloads and staffing levels. Additionally, the review looked at how parcel data accuracy was ensured, sales verification and analysis, and the CAMA system employed by the county. The DOR review supported many of the initial conceptions held by Mark and Wes. One of the recommendations made was that three additional employees be added to assist in property segregations, sales analysis and verification, and appraisal support. Although funding for all of these positions was not immediate, by working with the Board of County Commissioners, funding for three positions was added in 1999.

The story doesn't end there...as well as it shouldn't. With input and support from staff, Skagit County has and is continuing to review functions of the

King County Employee Hobnobs with Stars



When **Fabio** came to Seattle to discuss film opportunities and fulfill a charity dinner obligation, he knew that if you want to get something done in King County you need to start with **Executive Receptionist Mary Tedesco**. Fabio also met with Ron Sims, Dave Reichert and Norm Maleng - **BUT** only after getting his picture taken with Mary!

office and processes employed. To produce accurate and timely assessments, data for key parcel characteristics are continually tested for validity. By use of a Windows 2000 based network tied to a Unix server, on which the Assessor data resides, macros have been developed in Microsoft Word and Excel templates. This allows many of the forms and records that are administered to be automated and self-propagating. The extensive use of digital photographs have more than met their initial cost and serve as an excellent illustrative tool that is available during BOE hearings. Although it was originally intended as a cost saving measure, digital photography has enhanced the efficiency of the appraisers, as there are no longer delays in film development and the filing of photographs. All images are available immediately at each workstation without having to track down individual folio books. By using GIS data and products available through the Skagit County GIS Department, appraisal progress by indi-

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vidual appraisers is easily tracked by color-coded maps.

Through process automation and relevant training, appraisals per week

have increased in excess of 50%. Last year, the county was able to close rolls and certify all new construction four months earlier than in previous years. The assessor is also in the process of

moving to a four-year inspection cycle and continue to complete annual re-valuation. The Skagit County Assessor and staff are commended for their hard work and innovative spirit.

Of General Interest

Three Initiatives to the People Head to Fall Ballot

The Office of the Secretary of State has certified three Initiatives to the People to this fall's ballot. In order to validate, initiative sponsors must submit enough valid signatures equaling 8% of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial race. Based on the 2000 general election gubernatorial race, that number works out to be 197,734 valid signatures. All three initiative sponsors submitted far

more signatures than the required 197,734 as the invalidation rate on signatures runs approximately 15%.

The Initiatives to the People that will appear on the fall ballot are: I-747 which limits property tax increases to 1%; I-773 would impose additional taxes on tobacco products to fund a variety of different programs including help to low income citizens; I-775 would cre-

ate a homecare quality authority to regulate publicly funded in-home care services for the elderly and disabled.

Initiatives need a majority of favorable votes to pass and become law. If the effective date is not noted in the text of the initiative, the effective date is on the thirtieth day following the election. In 2001, the effective date would be December 6.

Apply Now for COTCC Certification!

With a new and different Certified Public Official (CPO) program on the horizon, it is important that county officials apply now if they are eligible for certification under WACO's County Officials' Certification and Training Course (COTCC) through the University of Washington.

Applications for certification were mailed this week to approximately seventy county officials who completed the five-day course at the University of Washington (UW) that WACO has offered in past years. A combination of attendance (50 points) and an award of 50 points for experience and government

service will qualify them for UW certification from the Daniel J. Evans Graduate School of Public Affairs. Over 200 WACO and WSAC members have received the certification since the program began in the mid-1980s.

It is important that eligible officials apply this year. WACO's education program and the future of WACO's affiliation with the University are changing for a variety of reasons. WACO is in the process of developing a Certified Public Official (CPO) Program in partnership with the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), the Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP), the

County Road Administration Board (CRAB) and Washington State University (WSU). The CPO Program is an opportunity to offer expanded training and make it more accessible by sharing of resources among the partners.

Completed COTCC applications must be received at WACO by August 27. The WACO Education and Certification Committee will then evaluate the applications and submit the names of qualified individuals to the University for certification. The certificates will be presented at WACO's 43rd Annual Conference at Port Ludlow in October. Please call WACO if you have any questions.

WACO/WSAC Scholarship Fund

So What is the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund?

In last week's Courthouse Journal we provided a brief description of the Washington Scholarship Fund and discussed how WSAC is raising funds this year at our Fall Legislative Conference. Here is some history of the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund:

What is the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund?

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a joint endeavor of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) to provide scholarship funds to children of county employees. The Scholarship Fund was officially established in 1993 but informal donations and awards were made as early as 1988. Since 1993, there have been 36 awards granted totaling \$59,000.

How do we raise the funds?

WSAC and WACO alternate fund-raising events for this benefit. WSAC holds an auction each odd year held during their Fall Legislative Conference. WACO holds the "affiliate challenge" each even year at their annual conference in October. In addition to participating in the "affiliate challenge" the County Coroners and Medical Examiners raise money by selling fine wares. Both events have been very successful by raising thousands of dollars each year.

How many applicants do we get each year?

County employees can be proud of their children! Each year we receive over 200 qualified applications that demonstrate superior scholastic achievement, outstanding leadership qualities, and the dedication to their family, friends, and com-

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munities. In 2001 we could only grant seven awards to a field of 292 applicants. We hope to expand our fund raising so we can increase the number of scholarships.

What is the application process?

Applications for eligible candidates are accepted February 15 thru April 1 of each year. An independent panel has the dif-

ficult task of carefully screening each applicant. The panel narrows the field to a group of semi-finalists and transfers the information to an independent selection committee. The selection committee uses a formal point system to evaluate the applications to the final winners. Awards are granted sometime in early summer.

Coming Events

August 27-30

Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference, Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

September 9-12

International Association of Assessing Officers Annual Conference, Miami, Florida

September 10-11

Washington State Assn of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting, Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass

September 19-21

Washington Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, Wenatchee

September 19-21

ACHS Meeting, Ellensburg

September 27-28

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, East Wenatchee, Mickey O'Reilly Inn

October 1-5

WACO Annual Conference, Port Ludlow Resort & Conference Center

October 11-12

WSAC Western District Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Long Beach

October 18-19

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

November 12-15

Washington Association of Sheriffs' & Police Chiefs' Annual Fall Conference, Doubletree, Pasco

November 14-16

ACHS Meeting, Silverdale

November 14-16

WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, Silverdale

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am - 12 pm

December 13-14

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Annual Winter Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Seattle

January 29-31, 2002

Legislative Rally & Tri-Association Legislative Reception

April 11-12, 2002

WSAC Western District Meeting, TBD

April 25-26, 2002

WSAC Western District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 9-11, 2002

WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

July 12-16, 2002

NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

Employment Opportunities

WHATCOM COUNTY in Bellingham, WA, has an opening for a part-time, 20 hrs. per week, **Data Applications Specialist in our Health & Human Services Department**. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in a public health related field and 3 years of experience in a public health related setting that includes 1 year of combined experience in database design and construction and using GIS software. Salary range: \$16.07 - \$17.35/hour, DOQ. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation, sick & holiday leave, pro-rated based on part-time hours. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application period closes 8/15/01. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Re-

sources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATCOM COUNTY in Bellingham, WA, is seeking a **Health Information Administrator**. This position is responsible for planning, supervising, staffing, directing and conducting health information activities of the Health & Human Services Department. Performs professional epidemiological activities related to researching analyzing and interpreting health-related characteristics of County populations. Coordinates the collection, development, analysis and dissemination of data and other informa-

tion. Oversees the maintenance of the County's vital statistics. Requires a Bachelor's degree in public health, epidemiology or closely related science field AND 4 years of related public health experience including 2 years supervisory experience. A Master's degree is preferred. Salary range is \$3,635 - \$4,740 / month, DOQ. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation, sick & holiday leave. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application period closes 8/27/01. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

COWLITZ COUNTY is accepting applications for the position of **Engineer III**. This is a professional engineering exempt position. It supervises engineering staff and performs preliminary engineering services for public Works including planning, design and specification. This position serves as a Project Manager for Public Works projects. Requirements: Possess a Professional Engineering License. Minimum of 4 years of engineering experience with demonstrated civil engineering design in public works projects. Salary: \$4,725 - \$4,988 - \$5,250 per month, depending upon experience and qualifications. Application and job description can be obtained by visiting Admin Services at 207

4th Avenue N., Kelso, WA; by calling (360) 577-3065 or TDD (360) 577-3061; by faxing your request to (360) 423-9987; or by sending an email through the link in our website: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us. Applications must be returned to Admin Services by 5 p.m., Monday, August 27, 2001. Cowlitz County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COWLITZ COUNTY is accepting applications for the position of Engineering Manager. This is a professional civil engineering exempt position. It manages the activities and staff of the Engineering Division of Public Works. Collaborates with the Department Director and Assistant Director to establish and develop County Road programs and plans. This position implements county road programs and associated projects by coordinating, prioritizing and managing multiple technical groups, consultants and subcontractors. Requirements:

possess and maintain a Professional Engineering License from the state of Washington or a state having reciprocity agreement with Washington. Must obtain reciprocity licensing within 6 months of employment. 8 years of broad based experience as a civil engineer in the disciplines of roads, sewer, wastewater, storm water, diking, structural, surveying, geo-technical and/or other related fields that would ensure required knowledge. Experience must include 2 years of full supervisory responsibilities. Possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Salary: \$5,100—\$5,383—\$5,667 per month, depending upon experience and qualifications. Application and job description can be obtained by visiting Admin Services at 207 4th Avenue N., Kelso, WA; by calling (360) 577-3065 or TDD (360) 577-3061; by faxing your request to (360) 423-9987; or by sending an email through the link in our website: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us. Applications must be returned to

We hope you have enjoyed
your first
e-mailed copy of

The Courthouse Journal

***WACO & WSAC thank you for your response
to our request for your email address!***

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Legislative Steering Committee 2002 Membership Roster*

*Effective 08/02/01

NAME	COUNTY	EAST	WEST	GOP	DEM	COMMENT
BEERBOWER, Bob	Grays Harbor		X		X	
BOWMAN, Leo	Benton	X		X		
BURTON, Dean	Garfield	X		X		
CAREY, David*	Walla Walla	X		X		
COTHERN, Barbara*	Snohomish		X		X	Ex Leg
DOHERTY, Mike	Clallam		X		X	
DREWEL, Robert*	Snohomish		X		X	County Executive
ENDRESEN, Chris*	Kitsap		X		X	LSC Co-Chair
FREY, Joan*	Klickitat	X		X		NACo/WIR Representative
GRAHAM, Richard	Lewis		X	X		
HAMILTON, Pat	Pacific		X		X	
HARRIS, Phil*	Spokane	X		X		
HUNT, Mary	Douglas	X		X		LSC Co-Chair/Rural Issues SC Chair
HUNTER, John	Chelan	X			X	
HUNTINGFORD, Glen*	Jefferson		X	X		
HUSTON, Perry	Kittitas	X		X		
JACOBSEN, Joel*	Pend Oreille	X			X	
KREMEN, Pete	Whatcom		X	N P		County Executive/ExLeg
LADENBURG, John	Pierce		X		X	County Executive
LEHNING, Bill	Cowlitz		X		X	
LEWIS, Jim	Yakima	X		X		Ex Leg
MILLER, Louise	King		X	X		Ex Leg
MILLER, Sue	Franklin	X		X		
MORRIS, Betty Sue*	Clark		X		X	Ex Leg
MUNKS, Don	Skagit		X	X		
NELSON, Gary	Snohomish		X	X		Ex Leg
NICKELS, Greg	King		X		X	
NIELSEN, Darcie	San Juan		X		X	
PARTCH, Greg	Whitman	X		X		
PELZ, Dwight	King		X		X	Ex Leg/Chair Urban County Caucus
REED, Gordon	Asotin	X			X	
SHABRO, Jan	Pierce		X	X		
SIEVERS, Kirke	Snohomish		X		X	NACo Board of Directors
SIMS, Ron*	King		X		X	County Executive
STRONG, Vickie	Stevens	X		X		
THORN, Bill	Island		X		X	
	TOTALS	14	22	17	18	
OFFICERS						
SHELTON, Mike	Island		X	X		President
ALLISON, LeRoy	Grant	X		X		Vice President
MOSS, Harold	Pierce		X		X	Sec/Treas
OBERQUELL, Diane	Thurston		X		X	
	TOTALS	15	25	19	20	

2002 Members, including officers: 40 from 31 counties

*Member of WSAC Board of Directors



Eastern District Meeting

September 27-28 East Wenatchee, Douglas County

Registration Form

Questions? Call Kim Zydek at (360) 753-1886 or email kzydek@wacounties.org

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

GUEST/SPOUSE NAME (if attending)

Registration Fees include Thursday and Friday morning Continental Breakfasts, Thursday lunch and Thursday dinner. You may purchase separate meal tickets for the Thursday evening dinner for your spouse or guests.

Pre-Paid Advance Registration Fee

\$75.00 (postmarked by September 14)

Regular Registration Fee

\$85.00 (postmarked after September 14)

Guest/Spouse - Thursday evening Rocky Reach Dinner

\$25.00

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Return form and payment by **September 14** to:
Washington State Association of Counties
206 Tenth Avenue SE ~ Olympia, WA 98501

Mickey O'Reilly's

560 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Overnight Lodging

Call **Mickey O'Reilly's Inn at the River** (\$55 and up) at 800-922-3199 or the **Cedars Inn** (\$50 single, \$56 double) at 509-886-8000 to make your room reservations. Be sure to make your reservations **before September 6** and mention the *Washington State Association of Counties* to receive reduced rates.

Registration & Fees

Send in your registration form with payment before September 14 to qualify for the discounted Advance Registration Fee of \$75. After September 14, the registration fee increases to \$85.

Agenda Highlights

- County Success Stories
- What the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Means to Counties
- Counties & Conservation Districts
- Farmworker Housing
- Initiative 747
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants
- The Media and Your Message

Rocky Reach Dam Tour & Dinner

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. The Douglas County Commissioners have planned a fabulous afternoon and evening for us, starting with a tour of the dam facilities led by the Chelan PUD and concluding with a mouthwatering home-style feast of Baked Ham, Baked Chicken and all the trimmings at the Rocky Reach Visitor Center! The Douglas County PUD will provide a short presentation during the banquet.

The Rocky Reach Visitor Center, located on the Chelan County side of the Rocky Reach Hydro Project, is a beautiful facility boasting panoramic views of the project. The powerhouse holds two interpretive historical museums: Museum of Electricity and Museum of the Columbia - and balconies provide views of the full length of the powerhouse, the spillway, fish ladder and Columbia River. Adjacent to the visitor center and powerhouse are 30 acres of award-winning lawns and gardens.

This promises to be a great event! Don't forget, guests are always welcome and extra meal tickets may be purchased with your registration.