Earthquake moves legislature

On more than one occasion, lobbyists have tried to figure a way of extending the cut-off date to save their favorite bills. It looks like it takes a 6.8 earthquake do so. Senator Snyder was quoted in local newspapers as saying the cut-offs would be extended.

When the quake hit the Senate Democrats were in caucus and they all dived under a large table. One senator was quoted as saying, “There were prayers coming from senators that I didn’t think even knew who God was.”

Needless to say, the big story of the week is the quake. While the fate of many bills was being decided by the cut-off dates this week, everything is now in limbo. Immediately following the quake, all of the state employees were sent home so an assessment could be made of the damage to the buildings. Leadership sent the legislators home until next Monday, March 5th. Reportedly, a meeting is to take place on Monday to determine if the Legislative Building can be occupied and if not then what other buildings can be used to house the Legislature for the remainder of the session.

The Governor has estimated the damage to exceed one billion dollars statewide, and that is sure to make it more difficult to find the funds necessary to adopt a budget without serious cuts in programs. Rumors run from a delay of a few days to weeks before going back into session. The longer the delay, the more certain a special session will be needed to complete the budget for the general fund and probably the transportation budget.

Fortunately, the Washington Counties Building sustained no damage. However, it has drawn our attention to the fact that we need a better evacuation plan than “get the h__ out of here!” Seriously, we are grateful no one was hurt or suffered serious damage to their homes. We hope the damage to our counties was minimal and an early report from the County Road Administration Board indicates such.

Next week was to see the beginning of floor action on bills passed by committee and we would have been able to report on those bills that died in committee or were passed. Obviously, we will need to report that in a subsequent Legislative Bulletin. Since no employees are allowed into state buildings we can’t even report on the status of those bills that had been acted upon prior to the earthquake since there is no information being published.

To show how crazy things were, it is reported that as the quake hit the chair of Senate Natural Resources, Parks and Shorelines, Sen. Ken Jacobsen was in the parking lot behind the John A. Cherberg Building and declared that all bills were out of committee subject to signature. If true, this would include WSAC’s shorelines bill. However, we can’t tell you what the bill language is since there is no information available.

TAXATION, BUDGET & FINANCE

Property tax/general comments

Last Friday afternoon, Judge Pomeroy declared Initiative 722 unconstitutional in its entirety and specifically said that the “taxing scheme” was also a violation of the uniformity provisions of the state constitution. Many thought there would be an immediate response by the legislature similar to that which occurred when I-695 was declared unconstitutional and the legislature quickly passed the tax provisions that were not unconstitutional. At this point, it appears that the legislature is reluctant to do any such thing. Many of the key legislators indicated that this would cause an unfair burden on local governments that were already suffering from the other losses of I-695. There were further comments that there would probably be no major reduction of property taxes this year because the state could not bear the additional revenue loss from reductions in the state levy.

Meanwhile, Tim Eyman is proceeding with his newest initiative, Initiative 747, which limits property tax increases to one percent.

He is quoted as saying that the court decision will simply make it easier to gather signatures and raise money for the petition drive. A recent newspaper article pointed out that the Attorney General is responsible for defending Initiative 722 as constitutional. That
Compensating Tax/Death Window
SHB 1450 has taken the first step in the Rules Committee and now is ready to be scheduled for floor action.

Department of Revenue (DOR)/Property Tax Bills
Since last week, SHB 1202, which includes the use of three years worth of personal property data for calculating personal property ratios, has moved on to the House Calendar. Both DOR bills, SHB 1467 and SHB 1202, are on the House Calendar waiting for action.

Dairy Farms/Anaerobic Digesters/Property Tax Exemption
HB 1888 was heard in the House Finance Committee last Friday and again had a host of agricultural representatives supporting it. Due to the concern over the fiscal losses from the bill, this bill will most likely not pass from the committee.

Farm Equipment & Machinery Exemption
Also heard last Friday was HB 1906, exempting all farm machinery from the state property tax. Again, the same folks who were testifying in favor of HB 1888 testified in favor of HB 1906. The Committee expressed concerns over the fiscal losses and it appears that they may hold HB 1906, but pass another bill out of Committee, which eliminates sales tax on health care products purchased for care of farm animals.

Timber Tax
SSB 5702 moved up the calendar in the Rules Committee and is now in a position to be placed on the floor calendar for a favorable vote. If you didn’t make your contacts last week with Senate Rules Committee members, please do so A.S.A.P.!

Ag Burning Exemption – Expansion for Orchards
HB 2070 was scheduled for a hearing Friday afternoon in the House Finance Committee and no hearing was held due to the damage to the state buildings caused by Wednesday’s earthquake. The measure not only includes the equipment used to reduce the ag burning from orchards, but it also takes out the existing expiration date for the bill which passed last year.

Property Tax Exemption for First Time Home Buyers
On Monday afternoon, the House Finance Committee considered HB 2061 and HCR 4217, which is the implementing bill and a constitutional amendment to allow four-year property tax exemption for first time home buyers. Testimony was primarily from the prime sponsor of the bill. The fiscal note showing the loss to the state from this exemption is most likely sufficient to keep HB 2061 from passing the committee. Besides, the likelihood of a two/thirds vote to pass constitutional amendment amending the uniformity clause is virtually nil.

Tax Increment Financing
HB 1418 passed from the House Trade and Economic Development Committee. It still contains the language that requires all costs incurred by the assessor’s office, to implement the act, to be eligible costs under the definition included in the act. This measure was sent to the House Finance Committee where the measure will now undergo scrutiny on the fiscal consequences of this proposal.

LAW & JUSTICE

Sheriff’s Legislative Priority
HB 1560, restricting the use of the term “sheriff” and “sheriffs posse” passed out of Criminal Justice & Corrections on Monday, February 26, and is now in Rules. Sheriffs should contact members of the House Rules Committee asking for favorable action. The members on the House Rules Committee are as follows: Democrats – Frank Chopp, Co-Chair, Bill Grant, Kathy Haigh, Christopher Hurst, Lynn Kessler, Steve Kirby, Val Ogden, Erik Poulsen, Aaron Reardon, and Sharon Tomiko Santos. Republicans – Clyde Ballard, Co-Chair, Jim Buck, Roger Bush, Shirley Hankins, Kathy Lambert, Barbara Lisk, Dave Mastin, John Pennington, Mark Schoesler and Beverly Woods. If you need phone numbers or email addresses please contact Brenda Bamford at 360-753-7319 or bbamford@wacounties.org

Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Officers
HB 2153, expanding the powers of fish & wildlife enforcement officers was heard in House Natural Resources on Monday, February 26. Testifying in favor were representatives from the Department of Fish & Wildlife, WACOPS and the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission. Opposition to the bill came from the Washington Farm Bureau and private citizens. The bill was passed out of committee the same day, and is now in House Rules Committee.

Companion bill, SB 6076 was heard in Senate Judiciary on Tuesday, February 27. Support for the bill came from the Department of Fish & Wildlife, WACOPS, WASPC, and the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission. The concerns that were expressed by the committee were the expansion of duties to a department with only 164 agents across the state, and the expectation of future participation in the LEOFF system.
During the Tuesday evening executive session, the bill was amended and passed out of committee. The amendment designates the Department of Fish & Wildlife as a general authority Washington law enforcement agency, but clearly states that Fish & Wildlife agents will not be eligible for participation in the LEOFF system.

CIVIL FORFEITURES

**SB 5835**, Civil forfeitures, mirrors an Oregon initiative restricting the use of civil forfeitures. **SB 5935** would eliminate the use of civil forfeiture, except to the extent it could be accomplished with a criminal conviction. Drug profits could be transferred to third parties and kept. Sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys oppose allowing drug dealers to keep illegally obtained profits and so oppose the bill.

NONPARTISAN SHERIFFS

**SB 5141**, the Sheriffs’ recommendation requiring the office of county sheriff to be nonpartisan, is on the Senate calendar awaiting a vote by the whole body. Sheriffs need to call their State Senators and ask for a yes vote.

COURTS

**TAX WARRANTS**

**SSB 5115**, Tax warrants, is spending another weekend in the Senate Rules Committee. Blame it on the earthquake – the Rules Committee meeting was cancelled. **SHB 1793**, the House version of tax warrants, passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday and is the House Rules Committee.

**FAMILY LAW FILES**

**HB 1864**, Removing financial information and social security numbers from family law files, is in House Rules and its companion, **SB 5975**, appears to have died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This was a County Clerks’ priority from 2000. Please contact your members on House Rules and ask them to “pull” the bill.

TRANSPORTATION

**TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE LIMPS ON**

This week the Senate Transportation Committee continued its hearings on Blue Ribbon Committee on Transportation (BRCT) bills.

Earlier this week before the earthquake occurred the Committee was rapidly hearing most of the package, dealing with accountability, revenue options, fund distributions and regional financing. WSAC and AWC testified jointly. In addressing the new mandates on local government, both associations stressed the need for null and void clauses. (It should be noted that the I-601 prohibition on unfunded mandates is not limited to general fund programs.) In recent days, a number of counties have completed their review of the BRCT bills. Some counties report that the cost of meeting requirements in the bills is well beyond their current financial capacity.

On the accountability measures, WSAC continues to focus the legislature’s efforts on reporting performance through CRAB to the new Accountability Commission. The concern lies with the specific benchmarks or performance targets and the establishment of a new baseline in order to receive state funding. For instance, the fact that the county system includes a large number of gravel roads means that using the WSDOT Maintenance Accountability Program (MAP) to measure counties just won’t work. The Legislation would cut off state funding to counties that do not meet the new state benchmarks.

The regional funding issue still remains a complex and difficult issue to resolve with many models on the table for discussion. Senator Haugen proposed a model that would establish a transportation facility district for the purposes of financing and selection of projects within a region. The boundaries of the region could be defined as school districts, legislative districts or physical boundaries of a county or counties.

Meanwhile, WSAC continues to work within the association and with others to help shape the package. It is difficult to foresee how the Legislature’s will continue now with the concern over the damages caused by the earthquake. CRAB is the process of obtaining a cost figure on damages to county roads and bridges.

For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

ENVIRONMENT, LAND USE & RESOURCES

**BIGGER SURFACE MINING FEES PROPOSED**

The Department of Natural Resources imposes an annual reclamation fee upon publicly and privately operated surface mines. The fee has been $650 since 1993.

Annual fees paid by a county for mines used exclusively for public works projects and having less than seven acres of disturbed area per mine may not exceed $1000. Fees are waived for all mines used primarily for public works projects if each mine has less than 7 acres of disturbed area in counties with a 1993 population under 20,000.

DNR has proposed legislation (**HB 1845**/**SB 5860**) to increase the annual reclamation fee to $1200. The limitations and exemption for mines less than seven acres and for small counties would stay in effect. Contact Paul Parker at WSAC for more information.
LEGISLATORS PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE TO CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

Co-chairs of the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee Gary Chandler (R-Grant County) and Kelli Linville (D-Whatcom County) have introduced **HB 2147** as a legislative response to Initiative 767. I-767 proposes a $1 billion bond issue for investment in clean water. **HB 2147** is patterned after an early version of I-767. Both the Initiative and **HB 2147** call for the $1 billion bond funds to be distributed as follows:

- 30 percent for planning, acquisition, construction and improvement of wastewater and stormwater control, collection, treatment, disposal or reuse facilities;
- 30 percent for planning, acquisition, construction and improvement of drinking water treatment, conservation and distribution facilities;
- 15 percent for planning, acquisition, construction, improvement or replacement of existing irrigation facilities that will conserve water or improve water quality;
- 10 percent for identifying, acquiring, improving or maintaining riparian areas that currently have or will have value as fish and/or wildlife habitat; and
- 15 percent for identifying, acquiring, leasing and maintaining valid, current water rights and converting them into in-stream flow rights.

Fifty percent of the funding for wastewater, stormwater and drinking water projects shall be awarded to small communities. Up to 90 percent of the project costs in communities under 5,000 population shall be eligible.

The bonds are repaid by adding a one-tenth of one percent sales tax on retail sales. The tax expires upon retirement of the bonds.

Every person testifying before the Agriculture and Ecology Committee earlier this week provided encouragement if not outright support for the Committee to move the concept forward.

HUGE WILD COHO RETURNS MAY PREVENT ESA LISTING

New forecasts indicate that runs of wild coho salmon returning to Puget Sound this fall could be twice the number predicted for last year. If the recovery continues, Puget Sound has a good chance of avoiding a listing of coho under the federal Endangered Species Act, officials say.

Coho have been up and down in numbers — mostly down — over the past 20 years, with numbers falling dramatically in South Puget Sound. In 2001, more than 350,000 coho are expected to return to Puget Sound, compared to about 175,000 predicted for 2000. The actual return has not been estimated, but it was somewhat higher than the prediction. Projections for chinook are not as good.

"In general," said Bruce Sanford, chinook manager for the agency, "we can pretty much say this year will be similar to last year." The agency may need to eliminate eight of the nine net pen operations around Puget Sound, thus reducing the production of blackmouth by about 20 percent.

The net pens are expensive to manage, and they're not producing the number of fish once predicted, he said. Most other chinook hatcheries will continue, although the number released into the Snohomish River system near Everett may be decreased.

GMA TIMELINE BILL IS STILL AWAITING ACTION

As reported in last week's bulletin, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is advocating for amendments to the current statutes that now require all GMA planning jurisdictions to review and update if necessary, local GMA plans and development regulations by September 2002. **HB 1588** and the companion bill **SB 5841** would establish new deadlines beginning in 2004 over a 4-year period. Both bills have been given public hearings and now await executive action in their respective committees. The House Committee held its last hearing just before the cut-off without taking action on **HB 1588**, while the Senate committee was poised to act on an amendment just before the earthquake occurred. We understand that even though the House did not take action on this measure before the scheduled cut-off period that they are still planning to address this issue along with critical area timelines and the Shoreline Management Act. WSAC is uncertain at this writing if new rules on the cut-off period will be adopted.

Please contact WSAC staff, Jackie White for more information or comments.

REALTORS ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT USING GMA AS THE TOOL

As reported in last week's bulletin, the Washington Realtors Association continues to advance an amendment to the growth management act (GMA) which would make substantial changes to the act in order to promote economic development. This measure would mandate that all GMA-jurisdictions adopt an economic development component in local comprehensive plans and requires plans to include extensive costly data elements. It further requires additional monitoring of the development activity and analyzing the residential and employment capacity of the urban growth areas.

The house bill (**HB 2056**) failed to be considered for executive action before the scheduled cut-off date in the House Local Government Committee. The Senate was poised to consider a proposed substitute the day of the earthquake. Both WSAC and Pierce County opposed the bill but supported the notion that this measure would allow rural counties to expand the siting of new small-scaled businesses.

Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for more information or comments.
With some cutoffs postponed, we don’t have a final cut of surviving public health, health care and solid waste bills yet. However, some action did occur this week prior to the rather abrupt interruption.

**THE SENATE HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS:**

**SSB 5820** - Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment.
This bill passed out of the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee 2/27/01 with a Do-Pass Recommendation and has been sent to Senate Ways and Means. The state fiscal note for the 2001-03 Biennium is $956,273 from General Fund-State to match $1,742,801 from Federal dollars to implement the legislation.

**SSB 5679** - HIV/AIDS Prevention Study Committee.
The proposed substitute bill passed out of Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee 2/27/01 with a Do-Pass recommendation and has been sent to Senate Rules. The substitute bill increased the Committee membership to thirteen and now includes three members representing local public health. You may remember the original bill included no local public health representation - even though local public health jurisdictions have played a major role in implementing and carrying out the AIDS Omnibus Legislation of 1988. WSALPHO testified in support of the study concept and requested the amendment to add three representatives from local public health. WSAC supported the concept and the request for an amendment to include local public health representation. The AIDS Omnibus law has not been reviewed since it was passed in 1988 and we know that the face of the disease has changed over the years - it is time for a review.

**SSB 5993** - No Smoking in Public Places where Persons Under Age 18 Are Permitted.
The proposed substitute bill passed out of Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee 2/27/01 with a Do-Pass recommendation and has been sent to Senate Rules. **SSB 5993** is a compromise bill negotiated between the Restaurant Association and the Washington Alliance for Tobacco Control and Children's Health. The bill provides that any public place where children under the age of eighteen are permitted will be smoke-free. Card rooms, enhanced card rooms, lounges and other areas where persons under eighteen years of age are not permitted to enter or remain may permit smoking. Such areas must be clearly marked and posted at all public entrances. The bill states that the Department of Health, in consultation with the Liquor Control Board and the Department of Labor and Industries will develop rules to address effective barriers between smoking and non-smoking areas. These rules will first be developed by a Task Force representing the restaurant industry and the Washington Alliance for Tobacco Control and Children's Health. The Attorney General or her designee will chair the Task Force. The rules would apply statewide.

The bill is a step forward in protecting children from the effects of environmental tobacco smoke by eliminating smoking completely from all public places where children under 18 are permitted - statewide. It does not, however, lift the preemption on local governments to pass rules that are more stringent than the State's.

**SENATE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & WATER COMMITTEE TOOK ACTION ON SOME SOLID WASTE AND PESTICIDE BILLS AND NOT ON OTHERS**

**SB 5483** - Modifying Standards for Solid Waste
A substitute bill was introduced and passed out of the Committee on Tuesday, 2/27/01. The vote was very close and is subject to signature. The original bill would have created unnecessary and costly requirements for certain landfills seeking to modify or expand their facilities. The substitute bill is substantially different than the original bill. The term requirement no longer applies to expansions or modifications of existing landfills. The criteria for designing and siting of landfills no longer apply to the modification or expansion of a landfill. The bill replaces the term "horizontal height" with "maximum fill depth". The bill now requires that the Department of Health adopt standards for monitoring the impacts to ground water quality from solid waste landfill facilities west of the Cascade crest with a footprint over one hundred acres. The standards must require a year-round schedule for sampling, with increased sampling taken during the months of October through April. It requires the Department to oversee the drawing of split samples of ground water taken by the local health jurisdiction and/or the landfill owner or operator. The owner or operator is responsible for the costs of any ground water testing and must reimburse the Department of Health and the local health jurisdiction for ground water monitoring activities and oversight.

**SB 5425** - Aerial Application of Pesticides
A substitute bill was introduced and passed out of the Committee on Tuesday, 2/27/01. The original bill would have required local public health jurisdictions in the five urban areas to which it applied (Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma, Spokane and Vancouver) to conduct pre, during, and post health surveys in the areas of spraying. The substitute bill requires local health jurisdictions, with the support of the Department of Health, to monitor the health affects after the aerial application.

**SB 6040** - Modifying Landfill Operations to Receive Out of County Waste
This bill, which was problematic, did not make it out of the Committee.

**SB 5231** - Biomedical Waste
The biomedical waste bill dealt with the handling of stocks and culture prior to transport and prohibited the grinding of them prior to treatment. This bill, which would have been okay with an amendment removing the enforcement responsibility from public health and placing it more appropriately with the Department of Labor and Industries, did not make it out of the Committee.
HEALTH SERVICES, JUVENILE JUSTICE, AND HOUSING CUT-OFF HEARINGS CANCELLED

The final hearing in many of our committees of interest to human services got cancelled by the earthquake. We do know most of the important bills that have passed out either to the Rules Committee or to the respective fiscal committees. However, we don’t know when those important final hearings will be re-scheduled or when the fiscal committees will meet since cut-off will have to be changed.

Some of the remaining bills of interest and their status:

HB 1080/SSB 5211 requires insurance parity for children’s mental health benefits. House bill died in Committee and Senate bill in Senate Ways and Means.

SHB 1124 requires JLARC to complete an examination of children’s mental health services and needs. In House Appropriations.

SHB 1252 authorizes the use of DASA-licensed faith-based chemical dependency treatment programs. In House Rules.

SHB 1292/SB 5051 expands the chemical dependency involuntary treatment act to include gravely disabled and past history making it match the mental health ITA. In House and Senate Rules.

SHB 1377/SB 5468 amends the juvenile chemical dependency sentencing alternative to allow its use for kids who may not be amenable to treatment. In House and Senate Rules.

SHB 1390 authorizes the continuation of health benefits for persons with disabilities who become employed. In House Appropriations.

SHB 1629/SSB 5522 establishes a state-level mental health ombuds and Quality Review Team replacing the existing system in the RSNs and at the state hospitals. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill in Senate Rules.

SHB 1650/SSB 5583 enacts the recommendations of the JLARC study on the public mental health system. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill in Senate Rules.

SHB 1695 dissolves the Family Policy Council and replaces it with a new audit council. In House Appropriations.

SHB 1759 authorizes the sale of hypodermic syringes for public health purposes. In House Rules.

SHB 1863/SSB 5419 reduces the sentences for nonviolent drug offenses excluding those dealing with methamphetamine and sends the money to counties for drug treatment. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill in Senate Ways and Means.

HB 1913/SSB 6093 authorizes a specific residential children’s program to receive state funds including RSN money for a pilot project. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill died in Committee.

HB 1939/SSB 5544 requires mental health evaluations by the person or agency designated by the RSN of juveniles arrested for firearms violations, bomb threats, or arson on school grounds. House bill died in Committee and Senate bill in Senate Rules.

HB 1972/SSB 5965. The House bill authorizes counties who have adopted the real estate excise tax for conservation futures to also use those funds for affordable housing and appears to have died in House Finance. The Senate bill authorize San Juan County to impose an additional real estate excise tax of ½ cent for affordable housing and is in Senate Ways and Means.

HB 2011/SSB 5986 authorizes public/county psychiatric facilities to be licensed by DOH. House bill in House Rules and Senate bill in Senate Ways and Means.

HB 2168/SSB 5845 establishes criteria for siting sex offender least restrictive alternatives in the community. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill in Senate Rules.

SCHR 4406/SCR 8408 establishes a new commission to examine health care cost and access. House bill in House Appropriations and Senate bill may have died in Committee.

SSB 5417 pre-empts local government’s authority over siting methadone facilities. No House version and the Senate bill is in Senate Rules.

Next week hopefully we’ll have a clearer picture of what bills will survive the fiscal cut-off and it is not expected to be many.

YEAR OF THE TRIBAL CHILD CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The NorthSound Regional Support Network and the Tribes of the North Sound Region are pleased to announce the “Year of the Tribal Child Conference: Co-Occurring Disorders of Indian Children and Adolescents” to be held at the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe’s fabulous new Skagit Valley Casino Resort Hotel in Bow on April 25 - 26.

The gathering will be a first for Washington Tribes’ behavioral health professionals and include some from neighboring Tribes in other states. The topics are directed to Tribal issues, presented by recognized authorities, with personal experience in the Tribal environment. As an added feature, the sponsors have invited Tribal artisans to display and sell their work. They expect a variety of arts and crafts, such as jewelry, carvings, paintings, drums, and even CDs and books.

If you have any questions, please call 360-416-7013, Sharri Dempsey, Tribal Liaison, NorthSound RSN.

GOVERNOR’S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES BYRNE GRANT RFPs

The Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) is announcing the RFPs for the federal Byrne “Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention Program” area grant awards. The purpose of the awards is to prevent and/or reduce youth violence by allowing selected innovative, demonstration projects to have stable funding while they demonstrate their effectiveness.

 Organizations eligible for the grants include private non-profit agencies, civic and charitable organizations, local governments, and tribes.

The GJJAC has determined that as much as possible, all projects funded have a system-wide impact. They are interested in
projects that: use risk-based service strategies; serve the targeted population at risk of being a perpetrator or victim of violence against one’s self or others through a coordinated approach; and coordinate and collaborate with county/city government, youth serving agencies, law enforcement, etc. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate this prevention/intervention efforts with other state and federally funded efforts.

Approximately $475,000 will be available in grant amounts not to exceed $80,000 each. The grants are awarded for one year, however they may be renewed for an additional three years if certain conditions are met. At least 25% of the costs of projects selected for funding must come from non-federal funds.

If you have questions or need technical assistance on the grant proposal process, Office of Juvenile Justice staff will be available to assist you at 360-407-0151. Proposals are due no later than April 13, 2001.

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**ELECTIONS**

**SPOKANE COUNTY GETS GO AHEAD FOR NEW BALLOT TABULATING SYSTEM**
Spokane County Commissioners gave their okay to County Auditor Vicky Dalton to begin to negotiate the purchase of a new ballot tabulating system. The county plans on moving from the current punch card system to the state of the art optical scan tabulating system. Spokane County has used their current system for nearly 30 years and parts to repair the system are becoming increasingly difficult to find. County officials will begin their negotiations with the vendors whose systems are currently certified for use in Washington State. The auditor plans to have the system in place by the fall 2001 election.

**BLANKET PRIMARY**
The major political parties have until March 1, 2001, to file in Federal Court a motion for a permanent injunction. The legislature has until the end of this legislative session to take action on the issue of the primary. If the legislature fails to act, it will be left up to the federal court to decide how to proceed.

**BILL MOVING THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE MOVES FORWARD**
SHB 1230, which moves the primary election date to August, moved out of the House State Government Committee and into the Rules Committee. The bill also makes a variety of other changes to the statutes. Please call your House Rules Committee members to pull this bill. The bill is supported by the County Auditors.

**OTHER ELECTION BILLS AND BILLS OF INTEREST TO COUNTY AUDITORS**
**HB 1228**, which is the even year election cost bill, requiring the state to pay for their share of election costs during the even numbered years. The bill is in the House Appropriations Committee. Please call your legislators on the House Appropriations Committee to support this bill.

The Secretary of State’s recount procedures bill, **SHB 1644**, is still alive and in the Houses Rules Committee. Also alive are two other Secretary request bills in the House, the voter integrity bill, **SHB 1739** and **HB 1721**, both of these bills are in the House Appropriation Committee. **SHB 1502**, the conservation district bill favored by the Auditors is on the 2nd Reading calendar. **HB 1108**, which allows secretary of state office staff to view county election procedures, is also on the floor calendar.

Due to the earthquake, the Senate may extend their cutoff for bills coming out of the policy committee. Bills do not yet have to be out of fiscal or transportation committees. Three of the bills generated by the County Auditors are in the Senate Rules Committee and one is in the Senate Transportation Committee. Please call your Senate Rules Committee members and ask them to pull **SB 5272**, **SB 5273** and **SB 5275**. Call the Senate Transportation committee and ask them to support **SB 5274**.

**DEATH INVESTIGATIONS**

**BILL OF INTEREST**
**HB 1216**, the SIDS bill, has moved to the House Rules Committee. It will provide additional reimbursement to counties. **SB 6112**, Coroner inquests, did not receive a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee and is dead.

**OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**BILL STATUS**
Status of bills of interest to county officials may be found at http://www.wacounties.org/waco/leg.pdf. Today’s list is accurate through Tuesday only, as we have received no update since then with the disruption of the earthquake.

**TREASURERS**

**TREASURERS’ CLEANUP BILL**
**SB 5638**, the bill making technical corrections in county treasurers’ statutes, passed out of the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Monday, with one friendly amendment. The bill is now in the Senate Rules Committee. Treasurers: if you have a member on Rules, please call and ask them to pull the bill to the floor calendar and urge their support.
MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

CREATING A SENSE OF VALUE: BUILDING CITIZEN COMMITMENT
Wednesday, March 14, 2001 • SeaTac Marriott

This workshop focuses on critical topics every municipal leader must deal with daily. You’ll learn how to build and maintain close, cooperative relationships with your citizens, market the value of government, build a sense of ownership in government, and effectively handle media relations, particularly in difficult times.

As trust in government continues to erode, it’s more important than ever for leaders to find ways to reconnect with their citizens and demonstrate the value of local government. Today’s leaders must be strong communicators who can generate a commitment to meeting and exceeding citizens’ expectations. They must learn, in essence, to “market” government – creating in citizens a sense that their government regularly does important things for them. Doing this generates financial, political, and community rewards.

Session topics include:
✓ Understanding “Gaps” in Perceptions
✓ Build Affinity – Personal Strategies for Increasing Loyalty
✓ How to Market the Value of Yourself and Your Government
✓ Build a Sense of Ownership in Government
✓ Working Effectively with the Media

The workshop program runs from 9 am to 3:30 pm, with lunch provided. Registration is from 8:30 to 9 am. The workshop will be held at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street, (206) 241-2000. If you need a sleeping room for the evening of Tuesday, March 14, here are the government rates for several nearby hotels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Single, double</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SeaTac Marriott</td>
<td>(206) 241-2000</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Inn</td>
<td>(206) 878-1100</td>
<td>$62 single, $71 double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Western Executel</td>
<td>(206) 878-1814</td>
<td>$79 single, $89 double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Quinta</td>
<td>(206) 241-5211</td>
<td>Single, double – $79/$89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The workshop registration fee is $85 per person for all city officials. The non-member fee is $120. The registration fee includes lunch, refreshments and workshop materials. **Workshop size is limited, so please register as soon as possible.**

Please complete and mail the registration form, located on the Internet at http://www.awcnet.org/buildingcitizenregform.htm, to Eunice Gonzalez of AWC by **Friday, March 9.** AWC will bill you for the registration fee. All cancellation requests must also be made to Eunice Gonzalez of AWC at (360) 753-4137 by Friday, March 9, or payment is expected.

COMING EVENTS

**Please take note:** Several changes and additions have been made to this list of conferences.

**March**
- 2-6 National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- 16 Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, Wa Counties Building.
- 21-23 Association of County Human Services (ACHS), Yakima.
- 30 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, Washington Counties Building.

**April**
- 5-6 WSAC Spring Western District Meeting, Best Western Harbor Plaza, Oak Harbor, Island County.
- 13 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, Washington Counties Building.
- 19-20 WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting, Community Colleges of Spokane, Colville Center, Stevens County.
- 22-28 National County Government Week.
- 25-27 Wa Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (WAPA) Annual Spring Training Program, WestCoast Olympia Hotel, Olympia.
- 27 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee Meeting, Washington Counties Building.

**May**
- 7-9 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Elections Conference, Yakima.
- 16-18 Association of County Human Services, Walla Walla.
- 23-26 NACo Annual Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Hilo, Hawaii.

**June**

WSAC (360) 753-1886 • 206 Tenth Ave SE • Olympia, WA 98501 • WACO (360) 753-7319
Whatcom County, Bellingham, has an opening for a part-time, 20 hrs. per week, Social Worker. This position requires a Master's degree in Social Work and 2 years of progressively responsible experience. Salary range: $18.44 - $23.43/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 3/14/01. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job 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 Public Health Nurse to guide the professional and para-professional staff in both the STD and the HIV/AIDS programs within the division of Community Health & Wellness Services division of our Health & Human Services Department. This position requires a BS degree in Nursing including study in public health nursing and 4 years of public health experience, including 2 years as a lead. Must have a valid license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Washington State. Salary range: $21.02 - $26.71 / hr., DOQ. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation and sick leave, average 12 holidays per year, and WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application period closes 3/14/01. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Operations & Maintenance Supervisor, Kitsap County - Salary Range: $20.08 - $25.62/hr. Closes: 03-16-01 Minimum qualifications: Specialized training in park facilities, landscape, and grounds maintenance, and six years of progressively responsible work experience in park maintenance with at least one year of supervisory or lead responsibility; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Pay for more info and application packet contact: Kitsap County Personnel, 507 Austin Ave., Mailing address: 614 Division St. MS-23, Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676 - (360) 337-7185 ext. 0. Kitsap County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Check out our website: www.wa.gov/kitsap.

Public Works Director, Grant County. Salary $60-80K, DOQ. Grant County is seeking an exceptional individual to oversee and manage the Public Works department. Position will oversee the operations and annual budget of the department. Department has approximately 100 employees and annual operating budget of $25-35 million. The department is responsible for over 2500 miles of road maintenance & construction, county vehicle fleet and solid waste disposal. Ideal candidate will have strong management, excellent written and verbal communication, solid technical & effective public relations skills and a proven progressive public works background. 5+ years proven progressively responsible managerial & administrative experience in public works or related field. BA/BS in Civil Engineering required. Possession of, or the ability to obtain, a Certificate of Registration as a Professional Engineer in the state of WA as required by state law. County offers a generous benefits package. Send cover letters and resume to: Grant County, Human Resources, PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823. Open until March 30, 2001 or until filled. Grant County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Engineer - River/Flood, County of Whatcom, Bellingham. Salary range $18.94 - $24.72/hr., DOQ. Our Public Works Dept. has 2 NEW Engineering positions available. They require a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field, and 2 yrs. experience with river/flood, knowledge of hydrology, hydraulics, water resources, fisheries & wildlife resources. Must possess E.I.T. Certificate. Riverine & Hydraulic engineering design, hydrologic & hydraulic analysis and modeling and/or fluvial geomorphologic experience is preferred. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. Generous vacation & sick leave package, and an average of 12 holidays/yr. Member of WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred compensation & Flex 125 program available. Positions will remain open until filled with preference given to applications received by 3/23/01. Send letter of interest and resume to Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 676-6802. Call Jobline (360) 738-4550 or visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us for details. Equal Opportunity Employer.