

the Courthouse Journal

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

November 9, 2009

Issue No. 29
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Courthouse Journal*

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties



WSAC Conference Set to Kick Off in One Week

Those who missed the Early Bird cutoff can still register for the Washington State Association of Counties' Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair, to be held Nov. 17-20 at the SeaTac Doubletree Hotel. For the full agenda and to register visit:

<http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/AnnConf.asp>

Just Added to the Agenda!

Budget Innovations Roundtable

Thursday, November 19, 10:45 – 11:45 am

Recently the Urban Counties Caucus met and discussed how their counties are grappling with significant budget reductions. We have the opportunity to bring together a broader group of counties at conference to explore innovative solutions to some of the most trying fiscal scenarios in recent memory. County Administrators will join County Commissioners and Councilmembers for an informal, and informative, roundtable about how to budget in a new reality.

The Washington County Administrators Association (WCAA) will meet from 8:30 – 10:30 am preceding the budget roundtable session.

Thank you to our Annual Conference event sponsors:

Washington Counties Insurance Fund/Pool

Allied Waste/Rabanco

Comcast

Waste Management

WA Counties Risk Pool

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

PBS&J

AmCad

Job announcements & links to County Employment pages at:

<http://wacounties.org/>

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and the **Washington State Association of Counties**

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

WACO - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director

James McMahan, Deputy Director

Robin Chase, Financial Operations Manager

Bob Carlton, Research Associate

Kathleen Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Eric Johnson, Executive Director

Policy

Scott Merriman, Deputy Director

Rashi Gupta, Policy Director

Josh Weiss, Gen'l Counsel/Policy Director

Brian Enslow, Policy Director

Brad Banks, Policy Analyst

Jeff Killip, WSALPHO Managing Director

Linda Powell, WSALPHO Admin Assistant

Operations – Finance & Technology

Karlynn Parten, Finance Director

Barbara Warden, Finance Specialist

Justin Kerrihard, Technology Manager

Operations – Member Services

Michelle L. Nelson, Communications/Member Services Director

Sarah Bright, Member Services Coordinator

Beth Dubey, Member Services Assistant

Program Contractors

Neil Aaland, Columbia River Basin Project & Puget Sound Partnership

Tom Robinson, Timber Program Manager

Gary Rowe, WSACE Managing Director & Integrated Permitting and Mitigation Project (IPRMT)

Tonia Sugarman, County Training Institute (CTI) and L&I Retro Project Manager

WANTED: Free Meeting Space Opportunities

by James McMahan, WACO Staff

In our ongoing quest to ensure that our members are provided the most effective services in the most efficient manner, we are on the lookout for free meeting space opportunities. If your office or your county has space available for WACO, WSAC or County Training Institute (CTI) meetings free of charge, we would like to know about it.

Please call or email Kathleen Houts at the WACO office ((360) 753-7319 – khouts@wacounties.org) with the following information: your county, the location of the meeting space you have in mind, the name of the contact person to book the space, including phone number and email address, and the capacity of the room.

Know that this information is for WACO, WSAC and CTI use only. We will not advertise this opportunity to outside groups, and the meeting space offered would be used only for WACO, WSAC or CTI business, and coordinated through the contact person that you identify to us.

New Issue Just Released

The Department of Revenue's Property Tax Division has recently published another issue of our newsletter, *The Property Tax Review*. The newsletter is available on the agency's website and can be viewed by clicking on this link: http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/NewsletterFall2009.pdf



"Autumn, the year's last loveliest smile." ~William Cullen Bryant

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

WACO Spotlight

Garfield County Prosecutor, Matt Newberg

My name is Matt Newberg and I am the current Garfield County Prosecuting Attorney/Coroner. I graduated from Gonzaga Law School in 2005 and was hired as a deputy prosecutor in Garfield County that fall. After a short stint as a deputy, I was elected as the Garfield County Prosecutor in 2007 and am currently the youngest elected Prosecuting Attorney in the state at the age of 31.

Garfield County is the least populous county in the state, and as such, has the only single attorney prosecutor's office in the state. Being a one-man office can be both fun and challenging. I currently handle all traffic infractions, misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and felonies, and appear in District Court, Superior Court and Juvenile Court, as well as Division III of the Court of Appeals. Additionally, I am legal advisor to all county department heads and elected officials. If this does not sound like enough to keep one busy, I am also the County Coroner.

While I would like to take credit for all of the cases handled in Garfield County, I cannot. On occasion, Garfield County is lucky enough to receive grant monies which allow for the hire or use of a part-time prosecutor. Currently, Garfield County shares a deputy prosecutor with Asotin County for the prosecution of drug crimes. This has been a very successful program locally, and has allowed for a more manageable caseload for myself. Unfortunately grant monies are not guaranteed into the future, so Garfield County is working to secure similar funds for upcoming years.

In addition to searching for grant monies, I am looking for other ways to maintain my budget. Like most officials, I am trying to bring new technology to my office in hopes of better efficiency and less cost. While new technologies can be a plus, I also enjoy the historic charm of Garfield County. For instance, I do not have to pass through security in a large office building to get to my office or to a courtroom. I show up to work in an old train depot that was built in 1911, and walk a block to a Victorian style courthouse that was also built at the turn of the century.

It has been a fun and demanding whirlwind since 2005; being elected in 2007, married to my wife Stephanie in 2007 and becoming a parent to our first son, Nolan, this last summer. I am a relatively new lawyer, new prosecutor and new parent, but I enjoy these roles and am looking forward to the challenges ahead. I feel very fortunate to have this job as a public servant, and cannot really see myself doing anything else.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Counties to Receive Public Defense Grant Funding

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) is awarding more than \$5.6 million in formula grants to counties to pay for trial-level public defense improvements during 2010, as authorized by Chapter 10.101 RCW. Thirty-eight counties applied for the annual grants. All county applicants were determined to be eligible and received a formal Notice of Grant Funding in October.

Counties will receive their pro rata share of state funding in December 2009, following completion of a Grant Agreement that spells out rules for using the state funding. Each county's grant amount is calculated based on a statutory formula that considers felony filings and population.

As required by RCW 10.101.060 and OPD policy, the state funds must be used to make improvements in local public defense programs that provide attorneys to represent indigent defendants who have a constitutional or statutory right to legal counsel. State funds may not be used to supplant county funds. State grant funds also may not be used to cover basic overhead costs, including payment of "cost allocation" charges to support centralized county administrative services such as IT/IS, facilities, payroll, etc.

In addition to the county grants, OPD is also awarding more than \$560,000 in competitive grants to 18 cities.

Despite state budget cutbacks that required agency layoffs, employee furloughs and cuts to other pass-through funding, the total state funding available this year for county and city public defense grants was not reduced.

For a list of grant funding by county, see

<http://wacounties.org/wsac/Legislative%20&%20Policy%20Documents/EstimatedCountyDistribution.pdf>

Questions regarding the county grants should be directed to Kathy Kuriyama or David DeLong at (360) 586-3164; kathy.kuriyama@opd.wa.gov or david.delong@opd.wa.gov.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Dept of Ecology to Change Drinking Water Environmental Laboratory Fee Structure

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), in partnership with the Department of Health Office of Drinking Water, is holding workshops in mid-November to inform environmental laboratories of changes underway to the fees they pay for state accreditation. Currently, the accreditation fees Ecology collects through its State Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (SELAP) do not support the full cost of the program. Changes to fees will be accomplished through rulemaking (Revision of Chapter 173-50 WAC), which is authorized by the Legislature.

Besides increasing fees for accreditation, Ecology expects to change some of its business practices to reduce operating costs. Ecology will share a preliminary proposed fee structure with environmental labs at the workshops. We do not know how labs may handle any new fee increase. They may pass the extra costs along to their customers. Their customers range from small to large governments and private enterprises. Washington State drinking water and environmental permits require the use of accredited labs. Some of these labs are located outside of Washington.

In mid-November, Ecology will hold workshops in Lacey, Moses Lake and Everett. More background here: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/wac.html

Ecology's lab accreditation program covers approximately 460 environmental laboratories, including labs that analyze drinking water. Accreditation of environmental laboratories ensures that labs are capable of providing accurate and defensible analytical data. Accredited labs protect public health and the environment, and help ensure the quality of data used by Ecology, the Washington State Department of Health, and other data users.

In 2002, the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water delegated to Ecology its authority to certify drinking water laboratories, placing Ecology as the state's lead for environmental lab accreditation in Washington.

If you have specific questions about this activity, please contact: Sandy Howard, Communications Manager, Water Quality & Environmental Assessment programs, WA State Department of Ecology, office: 360-407-6408 cell: 360-791-3177 or email: sandy.howard@ecy.wa.gov.

Governor Gregoire Appoints New Director of Department of Ecology

Governor Chris Gregoire today (11/9/09) announced the appointment of Ted Sturdevant as the director of the Washington State Department of Ecology. Sturdevant has spent the past seven years as Ecology's director of Governmental Relations, and replaces Jay Manning, who recently joined the Governor's Office as Gregoire's chief of staff.

"Ted knows this agency - he has a strong familiarity with its priorities and challenges, and already has an excellent working relationship with agency staff, the environmental community, tribes and the business community," Gregoire said. "I am confident that Ted will work with people in every community and industry to ensure Washington state

remains a place in which we're all proud to live."

"In spite of our state's budget challenges, I am convinced we can continue to improve environmental protection and make meaningful policy gains that protect our quality of life," Sturdevant said. "Governor Gregoire is the best governor for the environment this state has ever had. I look forward to serving her directly to further advance her agenda."

Before joining the senior management team at the Department of Ecology in 2003, Sturdevant worked under Gov. Gary Locke, leading Locke's external affairs team. Sturdevant has also worked for Rep. Mike Nelson and Rep. Tony Federici in Oregon.

In 2008, Gregoire presented Sturdevant with the Governor's Award for Leadership Management.

"Ted's a proven advocate for our environment," said Joan Crooks, executive director of the Washington Environmental Council. "I have worked closely with him on some big environmental challenges – climate change, preventing toxic pollution – and look forward to working with him in his new role. With Ted leading Ecology, we will maintain our strong collaboration with the state to protect the people and natural environment of Washington state."

"Ted brings tremendous knowledge and leadership to this position," said Kristen Sawin, public affairs manager for Weyerhaeuser. "He has earned the trust of stakeholders and his strong relationships will help him balance the needs of citizens, businesses, and the environment to keep Washington the beautiful place we live and work."

Sturdevant's appointment is effective Nov. 9. His salary will be \$141,549 per year.

Snohomish County Focuses on Farming

The Seattle Time Editorial – Sunday, November 8, 2009

For the past six years, Snohomish County has brought together producers, vendors, regulators and nonprofit groups to promote strong farms, good food and a healthy environment.

The 500 people who packed the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center on Thursday came to network and build business connections. They also shared an optimism about the future of farming near a growing population.

More consumers seek out farm-fresh products for their family tables, and in restaurants, schools and institutional settings. Developing brand and marketing connections was a major theme of the conference.

Between 2000 and 2007, county farmland grew to almost 77,000 acres, and average farm size expanded to 46 acres. Those positive expectations are revealed in other ways. There is renewed interest in the details of farm succession, passing agricultural land to the next generation. Land trusts can offer ways to reduce tax burdens through the transfer of development rights and creation of easements.

Organizations such as Washington FarmLink help people interested in farming learn about available acreage. The efforts of Puget Sound Fresh point city folks — families and chefs — toward consumer-friendly farms to buy produce, meat and other fresh products close to home.

The conference also brought together the players sorting through fractious environmental topics such as surface-water management. A highway expansion might require covering a wetland. Environmental mitigation could require the purchase of farmland to flood and create a new wetland. One result is more land out of agricultural production. The conference also showcased the elemental links between the agricultural infrastructure of Washington State University's research and extension programs and the farming community.

WSU's scientists at Mount Vernon and Puyallup solve problems and explore new crops, as the extension service helps farmers apply new techniques and nurture business opportunities.

Agriculture can thrive and create jobs. The conference helped show how it can be done.

General Government Issues

Department of Commerce Submits Recommendations for Restructuring to Renew Focus on Jobs, Washington Businesses

Report reflects Governor's call for more efficient, streamlined government

The Washington State Department of Commerce has submitted its [official recommendation](#) to Gov. Chris Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature for restructuring the department as a leader in the state's economic development efforts. Formerly the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Commerce's report outlines two options for creating a more focused and efficient organization dedicated to growing and improving jobs in Washington.

"After listening carefully to business and community leaders, employers and our other key stakeholders around the state, we believe the priorities and organization laid out in this report provide a framework to succeed in keeping Washington state competitive and helping our communities and economies thrive," said Commerce Director Rogers Weed.

"Restructuring an organization with more than 200 programs is no small undertaking. I applaud the Governor and Legislature for their commitment to creating an efficient and effective department dedicated to job growth and improvement."

Reforming Commerce marks the latest effort under Gov. Gregoire's call to reduce bureaucracy and streamline operations in state government, including elimination of 54 boards and commissions by executive order and a major initiative underway to assess and consolidate the work of multiple natural resource agencies. Last week, Gregoire announced that her Office of Regulatory Assistance will move its business solutions manager to Commerce and, along with business leaders from around the state, [endorsed the Commerce priorities](#) for a more focused economic development agency. Commerce's final structure and any additional programmatic shifts will be determined by the Governor and the Legislature.

In 2009, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development was renamed the Department of Commerce by the Legislature. Commerce was tasked with recommending a structure and mission that matched the focus of its new name. The report released today titled "Defining Commerce: Next Steps in Our Mission to Grow and Improve Jobs," follows an unprecedented statewide outreach effort to gather feedback from business and industry groups, local governments, utilities, community service agencies, housing groups, nonprofits, fellow state agencies, Commerce employees, legislators, and other stakeholders.

The Commerce recommendation to the Legislature is built on four "global" priorities affecting all Washington businesses -- competitiveness, education and workforce training, more efficient regulation, and infrastructure investment -- as well as four targeted priorities -- sector focus, rural focus, small business focus, and community capacity. The plan also aligns with the Washington [Economic Development Commission's](#) Feb. 2009 proposal for sustaining a world-class innovation economy in our state.

For more information on the Department of Commerce, please visit: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov>.
[Download Commerce Report Fact Sheet](#) (pdf)

News from the State Interoperability Executive Committee

Commissioner Mike Doherty, Clallam County, represents WSAC on the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), which serves to enhance interoperability statewide. Here is a recap of some of the SEIC's current activities:

SIEC Premieres New Video Interoperability in Washington: Let's Talk

The New video, *Interoperability in Washington: Let's Talk*, is a new tool in your arsenal to help your neighbors and partners quickly grasp an overview of interoperability as well as the approach to address the problem. The video lends third-party credibility to the importance and relevance of your work in establishing interoperability. "It just makes perfect

public safety sense," said Cowlitz County Sheriff Bill Mahoney, and Major General Timothy Lowenberg adds, "It saves lives." Check the SEIC website at <http://www.siec.wa.gov/> for when the video will be available online.

800 MHz Rebanding Project Update

Commercial wireless carriers currently occupy frequencies adjacent to those of public safety radio operations which increases the risk of harmful interference to public safety operators. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a set of orders mandating the reconfiguration of the 800 MHz radio band to address this issue. In addition, the FCC agreed to have Sprint Nextel (SN) pay for 800 MHz re-banding costs for affected licensees to move to newly designated frequencies within the 800 MHz spectrum. On September 30, 2009, the state completed negotiations for the Wave 4 Rebanding Planning Funding Agreement (PFA) with Sprint Nextel (SN) and the Transition Administrator (TA). The project team estimates a total 15 months to complete Wave 4 Planning activities, comprised of up to 11 months for planning and document development, followed by up to 4 months of negotiations.

National Emergency Communications Plan

In December of 2008 the Department of Homeland Security released the National Emergency Communications Plan, a document intended to provide short-term and long-term guidance to address national emergency communication deficiencies. The result of studying reviews and action reports from September 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina and other natural and man-made disasters, and other major events that have occurred over the past ten years, highlight the need for improved emergency communications, across all levels of governments. In particular, the lack of effective interoperability during these events has been shown to hinder situational awareness, effective command and control, and overall response and recovery efforts.

The NECP defines three goals that state and local agencies must meet to demonstrate that effective emergency communications interoperability can be achieved in responding to routine multi-agency events as well as to major events and disaster situations. The three goals are:

- Goal 1 — by 2010, 90 percent of all high-risk urban areas designated within the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.
- Goal 2 — by 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.
- Goal 3 — by 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios.

If you are not familiar with the NECP, a link to the document can be found on the SIEC Web site at www.siec.wa.gov.

Association News

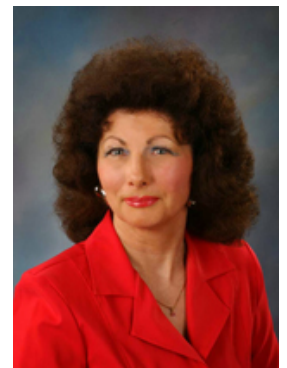
Benton County Auditor Resigns Office After 23 Years

by Drew Foster, Tri-City Herald

The auditor's budget report to the Benton County commissioners was supposed to end the Wednesday morning workshop on a quiet note.

That was until Auditor Bobbie Gagner submitted her letter of resignation.

Gagner, whose resignation is effective Dec. 31, cited her mother's illness as her reason for leaving. "I wasn't going to run next year, so all this did was hasten my retirement," she said, explaining she didn't plan to seek re-election in 2010.



Bobbie Gagner

Gagner has worked with Benton County for 34 years and was first elected auditor in November 1986. In that position she's been in charge of the county's recording, financial services, vehicle titling and licensing, and election departments.

"I've been a mainstay in this office for 23 years," she said.

Commissioner Max Benitz Jr., who grew up with Gagner and has known her for more than 50 years, said she will be difficult to replace.

"Ms. Gagner has very superbly fulfilled her duties and responsibilities to the taxpayers and the office she holds," he said.

Benitz and Commissioner Leo Bowman did not see the resignation coming. "Total surprise," Bowman said. He added that Gagner was an elected official who "worked the counter."

"That's very unusual in an office as large as hers with a staff as large as hers," Bowman said. "It tells a lot to your staff and your constituents."

Once Gagner resigns, the commissioners will select a temporary replacement. That replacement will serve until the commissioners make an official selection from three candidates selected by the Republican Party, which Gagner has belonged to since changing her party affiliation in 2002. The appointee will serve until next year's election.

Gagner said she's sad to leave the county but expects her exit to be seamless.

"Although I'd like to think I'll be sorely missed in this office, there's an excellent, excellent staff here," she said.

Auditor Resigns; Applications Sought for Replacement

by Michelle McNiel, Wenatchee World, 10/27/2009

Chelan County commissioners on Monday appointed Chief Deputy Auditor Skip Moore as acting auditor until they can choose a replacement for longtime Auditor Evelyn Arnold, who officially resigned her post Monday.

Arnold stepped down just short of her 20th year in office — and a week before the November general election — to take a job as superintendent of elections for King County. She has been working in both King County and Chelan County for the last three weeks.

Her current four-year term does not expire until the end of 2010, so commissioners will appoint a replacement to serve out the remainder of her term. The Chelan County Republican Party will solicit applications, because Arnold was a Republican, and submit three nominations to commissioners for the appointment.



Skip Moore

Moore will serve as acting auditor until the commissioners make the appointment. He said he also plans to submit an application to the Republican Party to be named Arnold's permanent replacement.

Chelan County Republic Chairwoman Fredi Simpson said they will accept letters from interested candidates until Nov. 13. The applicants must have a working knowledge of city or county government, vehicle registration and licensing, mortgage and deed recording, public documents recording, accounts payable and payroll, and all aspects of elections, she said. They must also be a registered voter in Chelan County and a Republican.

Applications can be sent to P.O. Box 764, Wenatchee, WA 98807 Attn: Auditor selection committee.

Party officials will interview candidates and submit their recommendations to commissioners by Nov. 19.

County commissioners plan to interview the finalists on Nov. 23 and appoint a replacement on Nov. 24.

Simpson said she had to wait until Arnold resigned to start the search for her replacement. Arnold took a leave of absence from her auditor job to start work in King County, but was waiting for the King County Council to approve her hire before resigning. She was confirmed by the council last week.

New Agency for Open Records?

by Brad Shannon, The Olympian, 11/03/09

A state task force on open records issues has agreed unanimously that the Legislature should create a new Office of Open Records that can sort out public-records disputes.

The idea is to copy what states such as Pennsylvania and Connecticut have done. Both states give citizens a place they can go – outside of court and costly legal actions – when their requests for documents are rejected or ignored by state agencies, cities, counties or other jurisdictions of government.

“I think somebody will introduce a bill and make it a reality. I don’t know what the Legislature will do because of the budget woes. But it’s possible this would save money for some entities, because they would have some place to go to resolve disputes,” House Majority Leader Lynn Kessler, D-Hoquiam, said.

Kessler was one of nearly two- dozen people serving on the task force created by Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna and Democratic state Auditor Brian Sonntag. It met Monday morning in Olympia for a second time, adopting its recommendations.

Many obstacles lie in the way of getting an agency approved by lawmakers. The biggest is the unknown cost of a new agency at a time Gov. Chris Gregoire is expected to also seek the elimination of several boards and commissions. Washington also faces a budget shortfall of up to \$1.7 billion in January and the outlook is not great in following years.

Pennsylvania’s Office of Open Records began in January with 10 employees, a half-dozen of them lawyers, and a budget of about \$1.2 million – all to handle more than 800 cases filed this year. “I view this as a long-term goal, keeping in mind our economy is not that great and revenues are declining,” said Tim Ford, the AG’s open-government ombudsman who chaired Monday’s meeting.

One participant, attorney Craig Ritchie, cautioned that cities and counties would not ultimately support having a new agency if it is not set up with incentives that reduce disclosure and legal costs for government agencies.

Ford said he plans to send a final legislative request to task force members for review. Then he’ll look to Kessler and three other legislators on the task force to see if they will jointly sponsor a bill. Task force members were unanimous in wanting to send their report and recommendations to the Legislature, but they sharply disagreed on a couple of issues.

Ten members favor an agency led by a single director who could hire administrative hearings officers to formally review disputes, and who also could be accountable to an appointive power, like the governor.

But five members do not like that and favor a commission style of agency like the state Public Disclosure Commission, which has citizen appointees that write rules as well as enforce the law with penalties.

Another disagreement is whether to make appeals to the new open records agency mandatory before a citizen or group can go to the local superior court to challenge an agency’s failure to turn over records. By a 13-3 margin, the group favors making it optional, but a majority also wanted financial incentives for staying out of court.

The panelists agreed that if a person were denied records by an agency and won relief in court without first going to the open records agency, a judge should then have discretion whether to impose any fines; the law today requires penalties that range from \$5 to \$100 a day for each records violation, which can be very costly when hundreds of records are denied. Several open records issues are likely to go to the Legislature in January. One is a request by the attorney general's "Sunshine Committee" to place the Legislature and its correspondence, including e-mails, clearly under the jurisdiction of the Public Records Act. The Sunshine Committee is reviewing more than 300 exemptions in disclosure law, and its recommendation last month was not unanimous, which dims its prospects for passage.

Toby Nixon, president of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, also plans to seek legislation to make court administrative records subject to the public disclosure act. Court-case files are available to the public under other rules, but a recent state Supreme Court ruling on a case involving Federal Way Municipal Court reaffirmed that administrative records do not have to be disclosed under the records act.

Rep. Kessler said she wants to push another bill that deals with harassing records requests. Her bill failed this year, but lawmakers did approve a more narrowly drawn bill that gave courts the ability to block the release of documents sought by inmates in certain cases – if the request is for intimidation or if the records release threatens the security of facilities, staff, inmates or families, or assists a criminal action, according to Tim Lang, a senior assistant attorney general who advises the Department of Corrections.

Governing Magazine Recognizes Sam Reed

from The Daily Olympian, 10/27/2009

Secretary of State Sam Reed's dream of a Heritage Center at the Capitol Campus is hitting some rough spots, but the moderate Republican is getting recognition for his election-reform efforts and efforts to look beyond party label on some political issues.

Governing Magazine announced this week that Reed is one of eight winners this year of its "2009 Public Officials of the Year." The citation says the Reed "exuded fairness in managing a disputed gubernatorial election in 2004, then reformed the administration of elections in his state."

I'm sure state Democratic Party chairman Dwight Pelz, who has tangled with Reed over Reed's advocacy of the state's Louisiana-style "top two" primary, choked on his breakfast cereal when he read the news. The Building Industry Association of Washington and other critics of elections irregularities in Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire's 133-vote victory in the 2004 election also might quibble — especially with this picture the magazine has of Reed posing over the headline, "Counting on Fairness."

But as the profile under the picture says this about 2004 and Reed:

What's most telling about how Reed handled the situation is that both parties were angry at him at one time or another. He followed instincts for fairness, not gamesmanship. Reed proved his independence again in a debate over changing how Washington State's primary elections are conducted. The parties favor "closed" primaries, open only to party members. Reed successfully championed a "top two" primary, whereby the two highest vote-getters, regardless of party, go on to the general election. It's a system, he likes to say, that allows citizens to vote for the person—not the political party.

The Tacoma News Tribune's opinion page weighed in on the honor today, saying Reed and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley were "the only two statewide elected officials being honored."

Training & Upcoming Events

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

County Training Institute – www.countytraininginstitute.org

CTI Trainings Offered

We are offering two workshops in conjunction with the WSAC Annual Conference. If you were not planning to attend the conference but would like to benefit from hearing these two wonderful speakers, you may register and attend these workshops for only \$25 each. Each session is one hour in length. You may also choose to register for one day of the conference and receive the benefit of networking with your colleagues all day, having lunch and attending the workshop.

How to Succeed in Media Interviews... Especially When You're on the "Hot Seat" – November 18 in SeaTac

When you're facing the media, you MUST come across as confident, articulate, and in control. Your message should be clear, crisp, and succinct. Time is limited, questions are sharp. No chance for slip-ups or mistakes. What you say could impact not only your county, but your career. Former Emmy Award-winning reporter and Media Skills expert Candace BelAir will show us how to thrive, survive and deal with "the media"... in good times, and bad. This is sure to be a lively, informative, interactive session that's guaranteed to help you in ALL types of public appearances. As Candace says, "Every reporter has an agenda. You should, too."

The Essence of Jurassic Parliament: Running Great Meetings – November 19 in SeaTac

Have some fun with **Roberts Rules of Order!** Many people are intimidated by procedure and would like to understand it better. This workshop uses creative visual cues to teach the essentials of parliamentary procedure. Participants will learn about the role of the presider and the three "golden rules" to make discussion productive and pleasant. Review the correct practices of making motions, amending motions, and voting.

Please see the attached for more information or visit our website at www.countytraininginstitute.org to register.

Tonia Sugarman, Program Project Consultant
County Training Institute/L&I Retro Program
Washington State Association of Counties
206 10th Avenue SE Olympia, WA 98501
Direct: 360.586.4219 ext 128 Main: 360.753.1886

"To help improve counties' capacity to serve their citizens."

Good Things

Commissioner Paul Pearce Elected to National Coalition Leadership

Commissioner Paul Pearce, Skamania County, who represents Washington's timber counties on the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition (NFCSC), attended the coalition's annual board meeting on November 5. During that meeting he was elected to the Executive Committee as Second Vice President responsible for County Services nationally. The NFCSC is moving forward on a campaign to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools and County Payments in 2011 before the current authorization ends. This funding is critical to both our counties and schools. Once the new reauthorization strategies are adopted by the coalition, Commissioner Pearce will present them to WSAC's membership.

Attachments

AutoZone Awarded Washington State Contract #01809 – Fleet Vehicle Parts, Just-in-Time

After a competitive analysis, Washington State Department of General Services recently made the decision to adopt AutoZone's Public Sector parts and service offering as part of a multi-vendor award for Washington State Contract #01809. The contract award will allow state agencies and local municipalities in Washington State the opportunity to realize cost savings provided on all of the products offered under the AutoZone contract. The contract is effective as of August 10, 2009 with a 3-year term that expires on August 9, 2012. For additional information on the AutoZone contract, please visit: <http://www.ga.wa.gov/purchase/contracts.htm>

AutoZone, within the scope of its Public Sector Division, is also the exclusive automotive parts and accessories provider under the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance is a **nonprofit** that assists local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits in reducing the cost of purchased goods through pooling the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. This is accomplished through competitively solicited contracts for quality products through lead public agencies. For additional information on U.S. Communities, please visit: www.uscommunities.org

To assist public fleet managers to reduce maintenance costs and as part of a nationwide awareness campaign, AutoZone has launched the "AutoZone; Great Brands, Great Products" initiative as a complement to their public sector offering. The goal of the initiative is to share many of the cost saving experiences being realized by state and local governments. In these challenging economic times, it is rewarding to know that local governments are working hard to save money and maintain community services at the highest level possible. For additional information on AutoZone's public sector offering, please contact: George Verkamp, george.verkamp@autozone.com or Cindy Senopole, cindy.senopole@autozone.com

AutoZone is the leading retailer and a leading distributor of automotive replacement parts and accessories in the United States, operating more than 50 company-owned stores in Washington State. Each store carries an extensive product line for cars, sport utility vehicles, vans and light trucks, including new and remanufactured automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories, and non-automotive products.

AutoZone is an Associate Member of the Washington State Association of Counties and will have a vendor booth at the Annual Conference & Exhibitor Fair, November 18 & 19 at the Doubletree SeaTac Hotel.