



Snohomish County Council

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Council Goes On Line and Out of Courthouse for Budget Meetings**

Sharing your opinion on the 2005 Snohomish County budget is now just a mouse click away. For the first time, the County Council will use the world wide web to take official testimony. In addition, those who like their politics up close and personal can meet the council, hear about the budget, and provide their testimony at three night time community meetings.

Council Chair John Koster said, "This is one of the most important budgets in the history of Snohomish County. We want to make sure it meets the priorities of all our citizens, not just those who can take time off during the day to come to our meetings."

The Chair of the Council's Finance and Economic Development Committee, Kirke Sievers, said, "Electronic testimony and public meetings in our communities will make it easier than ever to share your opinion with all five council members. A good budget requires public participation."

The council will accept official public testimony using a link from the county's homepage, [www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us). By using this link, citizens will guarantee that it becomes part of the public record, just like testimony at a public hearing.

In addition, the county council will conduct three public meetings on the budget the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

#### **Monday October 25**

Stillaguamish Senior Center  
18308 Smokey Point Blvd.  
Arlington, WA

#### **Tuesday October 26**

East County Senior Center  
824 Village Way  
Monroe, WA

#### **Wednesday October 27**

Northwest Stream Center  
600 128<sup>th</sup> St. SE  
Everett, WA

The three October public meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informal open house. County staff will be available to answer questions for the public. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with presentations regarding the county budget followed by public comment beginning about 7:30 p.m.

On November 10th, the county council will conduct its official public hearings on the budget at the County Administration Building in Everett located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave. The hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will be reconvened at 6:30 p.m. for an evening session.

The council must adopt a budget for 2005 by December 1, 2004.

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