



Snohomish County
County Executive's Office

For immediate release – Thursday, July 8, 2004

Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Snohomish County named one of nation's top 10 tech-savvy county governments

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*County Executive Reardon praises Department of Information Services for high survey ranking;
promises even more in coming year*

Snohomish County is one of America's most technologically-advanced, cutting-edge county governments.

The Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties announced that Snohomish County is ranked sixth nationally in its prestigious 2004 Digital Counties Survey.

The survey examines how county governments across the country are evolving in their use of information technology (IT) - primarily e-mail and the Internet - to deliver services to their citizens. Counties were grouped into three population categories. Snohomish County was ranked sixth in highest population category – 500,000 or more - behind San Diego County, Calif.; Orange County, Fla.; Alameda County, Calif.; and Bernalillo County, N.M. and Tulsa County, Okla.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said, "When my administration took office this year, one of my goals was to make Snohomish County a premier 'IT' government. This survey tells us we're heading in the right direction. A year from now, I anticipate that our citizens will have even greater access to services on-line – with the additional efficiencies and cost-savings that come with expanded IT use."

Reardon noted that the survey was taken before Snohomish County had fully implemented *SnoStat*, an on-line system that gives citizens access to the same data on which County officials base their decisions.

"I am proud of what our County has accomplished and believe we can improve on it next year," Reardon said.

Cathilea Robinett, executive director for the Center for Digital Government, said, "The Digital Counties Survey examines how governments are applying IT (information technology) to effectively serve their constituents."

Bob von Wolffradt, director of the County's Department of Information Services, added, "We've been working fast and furiously and it's paying off. Our goal is to deliver the services people want on their terms and at their convenience, not ours. There will always be more to do and do better, but we've come a long way."

Von Wolffradt noted the current most popular county web pages are property information, county employment, elections results, recorded documents, assessor maps, the jail register, registered sex offenders, permit information, campus construction, and solid waste.

E-mails incoming to the county peaked in April at 178,625, with an overall increase from January to May of over 12 percent. County web site visits were 226,772 in May (latest figures), a 13.3 percent increase since January.

All counties were invited to participate in the survey. Officials responded to a set of 17 questions and ranked their jurisdictions on a four-point scale, providing background data for final verification and validation.

Yakima County was the only other county in Washington to make a top ten list, taking second place in the 150,000-249,999 population category.

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For additional information on Snohomish County's information technology program, please contact:

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For more information on the Digital Counties Survey, please contact:

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