



Press Release

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Contact: **Janice Ellis, Prosecuting Attorney**
425-388-3681 Janice.Ellis@snoco.org
Sonya Kraski, Clerk
425-388-3430 Sonya.Kraski@snoco.org
John Lovick, Sheriff
425-388-3414 John.Lovick@snoco.org
Cindy Portmann, Assessor
425-388-3678 Cindy.Portmann@snoco.org
Kirke Sievers, Treasurer
425-388-3179 Kirke.Sievers@snoco.org
Carolyn Weikel, Auditor
425-388-3472 Carolyn.Weikel@snoco.org

Elected officials to work with council on budget.

The independently elected Snohomish County prosecuting attorney, clerk, sheriff, assessor, treasurer and auditor announced on Wednesday that they are rolling up their sleeves and are tackling the budget challenges facing the county due to the uncertain economy.

Each year the elected officials analyze their budgets and determine where efficiencies and economies can be gained while still providing vital and legally mandated services to Snohomish County citizens. The independently elected officials stated that they take the fiduciary responsibilities entrusted to them by the residents of Snohomish County very seriously and have been fiscally cautious in their proposed 2009 budget.

The county executive will present his version of the county budget on Thursday. To date, the elected officials have not been informed whether across-the-board reductions in budgets or lay-offs are being planned. "We have not been provided with any specific information on what the executive will be recommending for our budgets, which makes it a challenge to plan for these difficult economic times," said County Clerk Sonya Kraski. Prosecuting Attorney Janice Ellis added, "There are plenty of rumors, but no solid information."

The elected officials stressed that considering the uncertainties of the economy, they had hoped for more detailed information on the status of their budgets throughout process. "We know the economy will impact our budgets and we are willing to make necessary sacrifices. However, we must ask the county executive that if he is contemplating reducing our county workforce as a budget solution, that he proceed with great caution," said Sheriff John Lovick.

County Auditor Carolyn Weikel added, "The men and women employed in our offices are dedicated, hard-working public servants who live in the same neighborhoods, send their kids to the same schools, shop in the same grocery stores and have the same concerns about the economy as we all do. We do not take our responsibilities to our employees and their families and the citizens we serve lightly."

County Assessor Cindy Portmann stated that, "Over the years we have streamlined our processes, trimmed our budgets, and limited our hiring so that the services provided to the residents of Snohomish County are efficient and effective. We all strive to be prudent stewards of public dollars."



Snohomish County

“This budget cycle will be a difficult time for all departments and programs” said County Treasurer Kirke Sievers. “We look forward to again providing the information and data necessary to assist the council in making prudent and sound economic decisions for 2009 and into the future.”

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