

October 14, 2008

## Somers Calls for Public Meeting to Discuss 2009 County Revenues

With the county revenue forecasts continuing to worsen, County Council Chair Dave Somers has called for a special open public meeting Thursday with the County Executive, all elected officials and appointed department directors to discuss projected county revenues for 2009. In a matter of weeks the anticipated general fund revenue shortfall for 2009 has grown from \$9 million to more than \$20 million based on the 2008 adopted budget.

“Our budget situation is very serious,” said Somers. “There are going to be painful decisions to make. And unfortunately I’m not confident we’ve heard the last of the bad news about the economy and how it’s going to affect us.”

The economy has changed dramatically since Reardon delivered his proposed budget to council on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Reardon has since informed the council that sales tax revenues would be down by \$4 million more than he had assumed in his proposed budget. Council staff, said Somers, believes the figure to be closer to \$7 million. In addition, projected earnings from county investments have dropped with the struggling economy.

“These revenue shortfalls have to be made up for by tough cuts to services,” said Somers. “We simply can’t plan to spend money we know we aren’t going to have.”

The economic uncertainties at the national level further necessitate the public meeting on Thursday. In a memo received October 13<sup>th</sup> to Councilmembers and department directors the Executive expressed his concern that “the national economic crisis continues to erode the County’s general fund revenue projections for 2009-2010.” These challenging times call for all branches of government to work together and find the best solutions for taxpayers and employees.

The meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3pm in the **Henry M. Jackson Board Room**, located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the **Robert J. Drewel Building**, on the County Campus at 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett. The meeting can also be viewed live at the council web site.

To view all county council meetings and hearings live or archived go to the county’s homepage at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and enter “[Council Webcasts](#)” into the “**Search For**” box located in the middle top of the homepage.

Citizens can also send comments on the budget directly by e-mail to [Contact.Council@snoco.org](mailto:Contact.Council@snoco.org), or by letter to Snohomish County Council, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. M/S 609, Everett, Washington 98201.

Comments on the 2009-2010 biennial budget may also be submitted through the council’s budget commentary web form which can be found by going to the county’s homepage at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

and entering "**comment of the budget**" into the "**Search For**" box located in the middle top of the homepage. Then click on [\*\*Comment on the 2009-2010 Recommended Budget\*\*](#), fill out the information requested and enter your comments.

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CONTACT: Fred Bird  
Council Public Information Officer  
425-388-3873; Cell 206-200-2514  
[fred.bird@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:fred.bird@co.snohomish.wa.us)