



**Snohomish County  
County Executive's Office**

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**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

Contact: Donna Ambrose, Executive Management Analyst  
425.388.3883; 206.755.9823

## **Executive Reardon's 2006 Budget Approved**

*Builds on past progress; invests in the County's future*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon's proposed 2006 budget was adopted today by the Snohomish County Council, with only minor changes.

The Council's approval of Reardon's 2006 budget reflects confidence in the conservative fiscal policies he implemented when he first took office in January 2004.

"Fiscal and managerial discipline is necessary to ensure long-term financial sustainability as the county grows," says Reardon. "I commend the County Council for joining me in passing a responsible, sustainable budget."

Reardon's 2006 budget reflects a remarkable turnaround in county fiscal policy. When Reardon took over in 2004, the County faced a \$13.4 million deficit, the largest shortfall in County history.

Reardon led the County's turnaround by initiating innovative management practices like priority-based budgeting, performance-based service measures and by challenging his staff to innovate more cost efficient ways to deliver County services.

With the county's financial house back in good order, Reardon's 2006 budget invests in areas of needed expansion and improvement to ensure a better future for generations of Snohomish County residents.

### **Budget Highlights**

Public Safety continues to remain a high priority of the County and local residents. The 2006 budget includes funding to continue the fight on local crime and for public protection against natural and man-made disasters. 2006 funding includes:

- At least 10 additional sheriff deputies.
- Five new prosecuting attorneys.
- A new County Department of Emergency Management.
- Funding for new 800 MHz communications system for first responders.
- Base funding for a new Emergency Operations Center.

The County will continue its work to develop and manage its infrastructure to support growth in the County. The 2006 budget includes funding for:

- 16 new baseball, tee-ball and soccer fields.
- Five new or enhanced Community Parks at Paine Field, Lake Stevens, Martha Lake, Whitehorse and Willis Tucker.
- Transportation Improvements:
  - Extension of Puget Park Drive in So. Everett.
  - Increased capacity in Lake Stevens along the 20<sup>th</sup> St. corridor.
  - Corridor improvements in Marysville and Arlington.
  - Improvements along 112<sup>th</sup> St SW to complete a 10-year county project to expand the east-west corridor from Mukilteo to Silverlake.

The County's work on environmental issues continues in this 2006 budget.

Highlights include funding for:

- 14 habitat restoration projects.
- Installation of more than 100,000 native plants along streams and riverbanks.
- Opening of 10.5 miles of stream access for fish migration.

Economic development remains a high priority for this administration. The budget includes funding for economic development team to focus on business development and retention to increase jobs reducing the need for local residents to commute to other county's to work.

- Economic Development Manager to focus on recruitment of biotech, composite engineering, and aerospace suppliers.
- Agriculture initiative to continue to enhance opportunities for agriculture in Snohomish County.
- Support for the development of innovative agricultural opportunities and technologies, such as biodiesel and biodigestor businesses.
  - Streamlining of county and other government business operations to make it easier and quicker for local companies to do business in Snohomish County.

“We've turned the corner. Our fiscal house is in order, County services are improving and the economy is growing,” says Reardon. “We are investing in a brighter future for Snohomish County.

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