



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Reardon stands firm on tax cut, takes action on 2008 budget

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon took action today on the numerous ordinances that make up the 2008 budget package.

Reardon signed into law the 1% cut to general property taxes he proposed in September.

“We have demonstrated that we can provide quality services to the citizens of Snohomish County while reducing their tax burden,” said Reardon. “We are investing in a better and more prosperous future for Snohomish County.”

Reardon vetoed a 1% property tax increase for unincorporated Snohomish County adopted by the County Council on November 19. Council’s tax increase of 1% yields approximately \$477,000 in revenue. While Council raised the Road Levy for the stated purpose of supporting additional road projects, Council chose to shift \$400,000 of this tax increase from the Road Fund to the General Fund.

“We have a responsibility to be honest with the voters about how their money is being spent,” said Reardon. “We must continue to explore creative options that truly invest in Roads. I encourage the Council to reject this bait-and-switch approach to taxation and sustain my veto.”

Reardon heralded much of the 2008 County Budget, which maintained many of the priorities established in his recommended budget submitted in September. This includes significant investments in community safety, law and justice, the environment, critical services for seniors and veterans, and infrastructure improvements in parks and roadways.

Reardon did not sign several of the official budget ordinances, allowing them to become law. In returning the ordinances to Council unsigned, Reardon cited the County Council’s introduction of nearly 200 amendments to the Recommended Budget just hours before the vote on final adoption. The last minute amendments prevented thorough review and transparency the public hearing process is intended to produce and led to numerous errors that must be addressed in 2008, as well as policy decisions that did not receive thorough analysis.

Reardon pledged to work with the new Council in 2008 to correct errors and address policy implications for the County.

See the complete text of [Executive Reardon’s letter](#) to the County Council.

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