



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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Executive Reardon calls for Council to reject tax increases

On Monday, the County Council will consider three proposals sponsored by Council Chair Gossett to raise taxes by nearly \$1.2 million over what was proposed in the 2008 Executive Recommended Budget. In a letter sent to Council on Friday, Executive Reardon strongly encouraged Council to reject the tax increases (Ordinances 07-130, 07-131 and 07-133).

For the past three years the County has successfully adopted budgets that provide the services citizens demand – without raising taxes. In the 2008 Executive Recommended Budget, Executive Reardon proposed going one step further by cutting County general property taxes by 1% (approximately \$700,000).

“This modest property tax cut demonstrates that we understand the growing tax burden property owners face, and that we will not ask more from our taxpayers than is necessary to provide the services they expect,” said Reardon.

Also on Monday, Council will consider motion 07-681, introduced by Vice-Chair Somers, which would reinstate the taxing limits set by Initiative 747. The motion states in part, “the voters of Snohomish County sent a clear message with the approval of I-747 and that significant concern already exists relating to rising property taxes.”

“While I support the stated intent to follow the limits set by Initiative 747,” said Reardon, “those words will ring hollow to the citizens we represent if their adoption is swiftly followed by a vote to increase property taxes by \$1.2 million.”

In the last four years, Snohomish County closed a multi-million dollar deficit, balanced the budget and has begun building its reserves. Executive Reardon called for continuing this progress in 2008.

“We have carefully prioritized expenditures to serve our citizens while respecting the tax-burden they face,” said Reardon. “Our economy is robust and revenues are strong. We

have the opportunity to reduce the tax burden of our County residents. I ask the Council to join me in seizing this opportunity.”