

What people are saying about the Reardon administration and priorities-based budgeting

Steve Mullin
Interim Executive Director
Washington Roundtable

The Washington Roundtable wants to see priorities-based budgeting at all levels of county and municipal government in Washington State. We are excited that Snohomish County and the Reardon administration are the first to commit to a process that we think is vital to good government. We anticipate that the successes achieved in Snohomish County will convince other county and municipal governments around the state to adopt priorities-based budgeting. That's important to the members of my organization, because we believe that efforts such as Snohomish County's are critical to making government as efficient and customer-friendly as possible.

Fred Kiga
Former Chief of Staff
Governor Gary Locke

The Reardon administration and Snohomish County are going to move the ball along as they craft their priorities-based budget. The State of Washington had some remarkable successes when it introduced priorities-based budgeting in 2003. I hope that all other county and municipal governments in our state watch what happens in Snohomish County, because I believe priorities-based budgeting will help us through the short-term economic problems. In the long-term, I think priorities-based budgeting will allow us to rethink how government delivers services. It will help restore citizens' trust that they are getting what they want from government.

Richard Davis
President
Washington Research Council

Clearly, local governments face unusual fiscal challenges today. But the principles embodied in the priorities-based budget process should not be seen as simply a response to the crisis of the moment. Priorities-based budgeting recreates commonsense budget management by combining it with performance evaluation and a fresh examination of the role government plays in delivering essential public services to its citizens. It's a technique ideally suited to county government, and one that should serve the taxpayers of Snohomish County well, this year and beyond.