

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, February 5, 2010

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

**A note from Executive Reardon**

I presented my 2010 State of the County address Thursday before members of the Everett Chamber of Commerce, urging government officials to create more jobs while improving the tone of debate in local government.

These next two years will continue to pose difficult economic challenges, and it is incumbent upon elected officials in Snohomish County, including myself, to set aside personal differences and work together for the betterment of our residents and community.

Economic competitiveness and job growth must be our top priorities in the coming months, and communication between offices is an integral part to making that happen.

We have great opportunities before us. Earlier this week, my office sent to the County Council for consideration a proposal to use \$33 million in federally subsidized bonds available under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to stimulate new job growth. This is one avenue toward putting people back to work.

We also are working to help those in need now by coordinating a series of human service resource fairs throughout the county next week.

As I said in the closing statement of my speech Thursday, our success towards helping those in need is inextricably tied to our ability to work together for the common good. We are all in this together.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron".

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*Executive Reardon delivers his 2010 State of the County address Thursday*

[The 2010 State of the County address](#)

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 **Reardon calls for “putting people back to work”**

*Executive presents 2010 State of the County Address*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron presented his 2010 State of the County address Thursday, highlighting the need to create more local jobs while changing the tone of debate in local government.

“I am willing to bend over backwards to improve communication and the relationship between the two branches,” Reardon said, referring to the county’s Executive and Legislative branches. “I genuinely extend my hand and ask for equal effort towards rebuilding a partnership rooted in honesty and mutual respect.”

Reardon called upon elected officials and lawmakers to make economic competitiveness and job growth the top priorities in coming months. He stressed the importance of clear communication between offices regardless of political affiliation or current political environment.

“Our success towards helping those in need is inextricably tied to our ability to work together for the common good,” Reardon said. “Our citizens would much rather have a paycheck than an unemployment check or government voucher.”

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The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

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## Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
M/S #407  
Everett, WA  
98201

Phone:  
425.388.3460  
Fax:  
425.388.3434

Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron".

In his address, Reardon emphasized his proposal to use \$33 million in federally subsidized bonds available under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to stimulate new job growth. He added that new jobs and economic expansion could be created in key sectors of Snohomish County's local economy: aerospace, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, agribusiness and biotechnology.

"Creating new jobs and growing the economy is the most effective means to increasing tax revenues and decreasing the demand for government services," he said.

To do that, Reardon said Snohomish County needed to be organized, focused and innovative, using the recent creation of an aerospace training center by the Executive Office, Aerospace Futures Alliance and others as an example.

"After important legislation aimed at creating an aerospace training center failed to make it out of the (state) Senate, my administration brought together the interested parties to make it happen," he said. "We didn't let pessimism or low expectations hold us back."

As new jobs are created, however, Reardon said more effort must be made to help those in need.

"My administration has brought together the United Way of Snohomish County, the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County and human needs agencies from the State of Washington to host a three day human needs resource fair at multiple locations throughout the county," he said. "Starting next week, more than 25 nonprofit and government agencies will be available to provide employment, housing, financial and healthcare assistance."

As slow as economic recovery has been at federal and state levels, Reardon urged locally elected officials to return to the days when robust, respectful dialogue was the norm and produced positive results. He added that it was incumbent upon all offices, including the Executive Office.

"Let the front pages of our papers tell the story of our efforts to help those suffering because of the recession by creating jobs and putting people back to work," he said. "Let the papers inform our readers of the work we are doing to blaze the trail of opportunity and economic recovery."

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 **Reardon proposes using \$33 million in ARRA funds for new jobs**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon proposed Wednesday morning using more than \$33 million in federally subsidized bonds available under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to stimulate new job growth.

The Recovery Zone Bonds – in addition to the nearly \$40 million in service and infrastructure grants already received under the federal recovery program – can be used to fund public and private capital improvements that promote economic development and job growth throughout the county.

“This bonding program can provide new jobs while projects are underway and can be the stimulus to economic growth in Snohomish County,” County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “The outcome will be new family wage jobs for residents who are now out of work.”

Called the “ReCAP Initiative,” the extremely low-interest bond program offered under the federal recovery program focuses exclusively on capital projects such as essential public facilities and business infrastructure rather than on providing additional funding for county programs and services. If approved by the County Council, the county’s Recovery Zone Bonds are expected to be available by October.

Under Reardon’s proposed recovery plan, the county’s ReCAP Initiative will use \$13 million in Recovery Zone Bonds to complete capital improvements of public facilities. A specific project list will be jointly developed by the Executive and County Council but will likely include improvements to the Snohomish County Fairgrounds, providing permanent jobs in the future, as well as public-safety roads projects, offering jobs while stimulating growth throughout the county.

The county’s Economic Development Division will then develop and administer a competitive process for distributing the remaining \$20 million in Recovery Zone Bonds to private-sector applicants looking to create new jobs. Private-sector businesses assume full responsibility for payment of this bond debt, but funds will be available for capital improvements in different sectors including the aerospace and biotech industries as well agricultural improvements and renewable energy projects.

Since the ARRA was approved by Congress, Snohomish County has received nearly \$40 million in grants for projects including transportation improvements, public safety services and human

services offered to residents. Nearly 500 part-time and full-time jobs have been created in Snohomish County from federal recovery funding.

“The more funding we can generate through the national recovery program, the better set Snohomish County will be as the economy begins improving,” Reardon said. “Already we’re seeing direct benefits from this money in terms of job creation, infrastructure improvements and better services.”



## **Keep roadways safe this Super Bowl Sunday**

Snohomish County’s DUI & Target Zero Traffic Safety Task Force has teamed up with the National Football League (NFL), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and other state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to promote safe driving on Super Bowl Sunday.

“Designating a sober driver should be on the top of everyone’s Super Bowl party list,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “It’s just one of several easy steps to help save lives.”

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America’s biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game. Yet, it has also become one of the nation’s most dangerous days on roadways due to impaired driving.

“We want remind anyone who will be drinking this weekend that real Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk,” said Tracy McMillan, Snohomish County DUI & Target Zero Traffic Safety Task Force Manager, referring to the name of the national campaign. “Please act responsibly, designate a sober driver before the Super Bowl party begins and leave your car keys at home.”

According to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2008, fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes accounted for 32 percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities. On Super Bowl Sunday, from Feb. 3 to 5:59 a.m. Feb. 4), 49 percent of the fatalities occurred in crashes where a driver or motorcycle rider had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 or higher.

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you serve ends up in an impaired-driving crash.
- Make sure all of your guests designate sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve lots of food and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the

party.

- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Keep phone numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and leave your car keys at home.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself – eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or stay where you are until you are sober.
- Never let a friend get behind the wheel of their vehicle if you think they are about to drive while impaired. Remember, Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

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## **County, United Way and WDC to host economic resource fair**

The Snohomish County Executive Office, United Way of Snohomish County and the Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) are hosting a multi-day resource fair designed to offer assistance to families and individuals impacted by the current economic crisis.

Called "Helping Hands for Hard Times," the three-day resource fair in multiple locations will provide employment, housing, financial and healthcare help to residents currently in need. There is no admission fee and all services will be offered to participants free of charge.

"We have to help families gain access to the resources they need to get through these difficult times," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "People all over this county are hurting. We can't rely on the politics playing out in Olympia or Washington, D.C."

More than 25 nonprofit and public agencies offering a variety of services will be present at each fair in Everett, Marysville/Tulalip and Lynnwood. Participants also can attend classes that focus on asset building, avoiding foreclosure, résumé building and interviewing techniques scheduled throughout the day at each location.

“With more than 10 percent unemployment, the need for services and job search tools is critical,” said Carl Zapora, CEO and president of United Way of Snohomish County. “This expo is a terrific way for people to find services and helpful tips to get through these challenging times.”

Resource fairs will be held:

- Wednesday, February 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Everett Events Center, 2000 Hewitt Ave.
- Thursday, February 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tulalip Conference Center, 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd.
- Friday, February 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lynnwood Conference Center, 3711 196th St. SW

Each event will allow for individual consultations as well as group sessions and workshops. Topics covered and services offered include: employment counseling, job search assistance, skills training, financial aid information for training, home and personal finance consultation, weatherization and home energy assistance, housing resources, healthcare assistance, H1N1 flu vaccinations, childcare resources and a variety of other support services.

“We’re seeing more and more people needing help during this difficult economic period,” said Sue Ambler, CEO and president of WDCSC. “It makes a lot of sense to pull together all these resources for easy access.”

Participants are advised to bring with them proper identification for different program requirements. Those people looking for employment referrals should bring an updated résumé.

For more information on specific classes or participating agencies, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search “resource fair.”

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