

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, November 16, 2007

www.snoco.org

 **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 Council’s stated intent to follow the limits set by Initiative 747,” said Reardon, “those words will ring

continued

In this issue:

Reardon calls for Council to reject tax increases

Eat Local for Thanksgiving

Register now: Snohomish County Focus on Farming Conference IV

How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

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

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

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.”

[Click here](#) to view the Executive’s 2008 proposed budget

[Click here](#) to contact the County Council to comment on Council Chair Gossett’s proposed tax increases, or send email to: contact.council@co.snohomish.wa.us

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,



Aaron Reardon

 **Eat Local for Thanksgiving**

Executive Reardon on Friday, November 16 issued a proclamation encouraging all citizens to participate in the “Eat Local for Thanksgiving” campaign. The campaign, supported by Cascade Harvest Coalition, is a grassroots effort to encourage every family to include at least one locally grown food item in this year’s Thanksgiving meal.

“Agriculture is one of the leading industries in our state, and Snohomish County is blessed with many local farms that are offering an abundance of produce for this event,” said Reardon.

Information about local produce can be found at your favorite grocery store, farmers market, farm stand or through the Puget Sound Fresh website, www.pugetsoundfresh.org.

continued

“Your support of our local farming community is good for the economy, environment and the health of our region,” said Reardon. “Please join me and my family by taking the online pledge in support of our local farmers”.

[Click here](#) to read the proclamation

 **Register now: Snohomish County
Focus on Farming Conference IV**

"From Soils to Sales," the fourth annual Snohomish County Focus on Farming conference gets underway at 8 a.m. **Thursday, November 29, 2007, at the Lynnwood Convention Center.**

The conference will feature nationally recognized agricultural leaders, and a broad range of subject-specific breakout sessions that encompass issues that farmers and growers all face: from livestock to crops, from nursery stock to landscaping, water rights, tracking consumer trends and more.

[Click here](#) for a recent Seattle Times article on the conference.

Cost: \$30 prior to November 15; \$40 after November 15 and at the door

Cost includes two keynote addresses, workshops, lunch and a wine & cheese tasting

For information, contact Laura McLeod, Snohomish County, 425.388.6465 or visit www.focusonfarming.org.

The Focus on Farming Conference, launched by Executive Reardon in 2004, is a project of Snohomish County's Office of Economic Development. Presenters and key sponsors include King County, Washington State University Snohomish County Extension, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, Flower World, Inc. and Northwest Farm Credit Services.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

