

Snohomish County

John Lovick
County Executive

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Snohomish County Council votes to build nine-story courthouse near Comcast Arena

Members of the Snohomish County Council voted today, Nov. 25, to build a new \$150 million, nine-story courthouse on property adjacent to Comcast Arena, at the corner of Wall and Oakes streets. Councilmembers Stephanie Wright, Brian Sullivan and Dave Somers voted in favor, while councilmembers Dave Gossett and John Koster were opposed.

The county is working with ZGF Architects to complete design of the new building and expects to break ground with contractor Hoffman Construction Company by early 2015.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that we need a new courthouse, but this was a very challenging decision,” said County Council Chair Stephanie Wright. “We’re committed to spending our taxpayers’ money wisely to build a facility that will serve the public effectively for the next 75 years.”

The council put the brakes on design and planning of the new building in June 2013, when John Lovick was appointed as county executive. Lovick and his executive staff were asked to review plans for the building before the council voted to move forward.

“I’m glad we were able to work with the County Council to review plans for the courthouse,” said Executive John Lovick. “The courthouse should be the face of county government – it’s where people come for adoptions and marriage licenses and court proceedings. A new building gives us the chance to put our best face forward to serve our county residents.”

The new nine-story courthouse will include room for superior and district courts, the clerk’s office, the office of public defense, and the prosecuting attorney’s office. It will be built using sustainable building strategies, be constructed to an increased seismic standard and will feature increased security. Once construction is complete – anticipated in early 2017 – the county will demolish the existing courthouse.

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