



Snohomish County

County Council

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Snohomish County's Adopted 2018 Budget Takes Effect January 1st, 2018

The Snohomish County Council received the 2018 Council adopted budget ordinance from County Executive Dave Somers late on Wednesday, December 13th. Executive Somers neither signed nor vetoed the ordinance, meaning that the budget ordinance is adopted as unanimously approved by Council on November 28th. The adopted budget includes a 0% increase in property taxes for 2018.

After more than two months of analysis and negotiations, Council rejected the Executive's proposed budget that would have increased property taxes by 4%, while still including the hiring of five deputies in the Sheriff's Office. Recognizing the tremendous value our workforce contributes to Snohomish County, Council made sure to avoid any layoffs to existing personnel. In addition, Council will be considering a variety of ordinances, motions, and policies aimed at taking a long-term, strategic look at fiscal sustainability. The items being considered by Council include workforce planning (attrition forecasting), restricted hiring of management/exempt positions, and elimination of merit award pay, also for management/exempt employees. Council is also looking at reaching consensus on revenue forecasting, building models for long-term forecasting (including "what-if" scenarios), minimum fund balance policies, and a ten-year debt management plan.

Council looks forward to working with the Executive's office, as well as with other elected officials, on facing upcoming budget challenges head-on.