

# PRESS RELEASE



## County Council

19 Nov. 2007

Dave Gossett  
John Koster  
Gary Nelson  
Kirke Sievers  
Dave Somers

### County Council Unanimously Approves Motion Reaffirming I-747's 1% tax limit

The Snohomish County Council today unanimously approved County Councilmember Dave Somers' motion reaffirming that the county will continue to abide by the limits set forth in the Initiative 747 – limiting property tax increases to one percent.

M/S #609  
3000 Rockefeller  
Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201-  
4046  
425-388-3494  
FAX 425-388-3496  
TTY/TDD 425-388-3700

"The voters sent a very clear message with their approval of I-747, and constitutional or not, it's important that we continue to listen," said Somers.

Somers introduced the motion following the state Supreme Court's recent ruling nullifying Initiative 747, the property-tax-limiting measure approved by voters in 2001.

"This is the right thing to do," said Council Chair Dave Gossett. "This council has never considered doing otherwise."

"This reassures the taxpayers that we support the spirit of 747," said Councilman John Koster. "In fact, it looks like the council will be reducing the general fund property tax next year by one percent.

"Snohomish County joined with other counties to challenge legislative bodies to maintain our practice of never increasing property taxes above the cost of living index," said Councilman Gary Nelson. "

Initiative 747 limited the total increase in local and state property tax collections to 1 percent each year unless additional increases were approved by the voters. With I-747 ruled unconstitutional, the county could have increased collections to the previously established limit of 6 percent. County Council approval of Somers' motion, however, keeps the annual limit at 1 percent.

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CONTACT: Dave Somers  
425-388-3494  
[dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us)

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Fred Bird  
Council Public Information Officer  
425-388-3873; Cell 206-200-2514  
[fred.bird@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:fred.bird@co.snohomish.wa.us)