

PRESS RELEASE



Snohomish County

Office of Councilmember Dave Somers
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201
425-388-3494
FAX 425-388-3496
TTY/TDD 425-388-3700

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County Budget: Somers' Proposes Council Start from Scratch

Snohomish County Council Chair Dave Somers announced he will propose the council adopt a from-scratch budget for the 2009-2010 biennium, rather than follow past councils' practice of relying primarily on County Executive Aaron Reardon's proposed budget.

"We appreciate the executive's suggestions, but his proposal does too little, too late for the residents of Snohomish County," said Somers.

Somers said the executive's proposal is weak and fails to deal with critical needs across the county. "We have a responsibility to do more to address the needs of our most vulnerable populations, ease traffic congestion and ensure the public's safety," said Somers.

The council will scrutinize every taxpayer dollar they allocate in the county's 2009-2010 budget through the lenses of three panels that support the overarching theme of "**Sustaining & Enhancing the Quality of Life for Snohomish County Residents.**" The panels are:

- "**Mobile, Livable & Sustainable Communities,**" chaired by Councilmember Mike Cooper. (Tuesdays from 9 am to 12 pm, from October 7th through October 21st – 8th floor, Drewel Building)
- "**Safe & Healthy Communities,**" chaired by Councilmember Dave Gossett. (Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm, from October 8th through October 22nd – 8th floor, Drewel Building)
- "**Public Accountability,**" chaired by Councilmember John Koster. (Thursdays from 9 am to 12 pm from October 9th through October 23rd – 8th floor, Drewel Building)

Budget Committee

Somers will serve as chair and Councilmember Sullivan as vice-chair of the Budget Committee. The committee will meet Wednesdays, beginning October 1st at 11 am on the 8th floor of the Robert J Drewel Building. Consistent with past practice, the council is expected to adopt its final budget on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving.

"The council is fully committed to an open, public and transparent process as we discuss the priorities of our communities," said Somers.

Public Outreach

On September 4th the council kicked off a series of public hearings seeking input from county residents regarding their priorities for the 2009-2010 biennium. Additional meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm – Willis D. Tucker Community Park – 6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish
- Monday, September 15th at 6:30 pm – Edmonds City Council Chambers – 250 5th Avenue North, Edmonds

- MORE -

Citizens unable to attend the forums are encouraged to send their budget priorities to the council via e-mail, online testimony or letter.

- Council Email Address: contact.council@snoco.org
- Online: www.snoco.org – search for “Budget Testimony”
- Council Mailing Address: Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201-4046

Somers said councilmembers will continue to press to find new efficiencies and savings in county government and seek innovative measures in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Snohomish County.

“We are excited to meet the challenges of the county’s first biennium budget with the needs of our community in mind,” he said.

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