

PRESS RELEASE



County Council

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County Budget's Painful Bottom Line

Snohomish County continues to come to grips with the local impact of the nation's economic crisis as it struggles to build a 2009 budget that anticipates a general fund revenue shortfall ranging from \$21 to \$30 million.

"It's very clear there's no way we can avoid a large number of layoffs," said County Council Chair Dave Somers. "The council's goal is to confirm those numbers as quickly as we can, because we owe it to those employees to give them as long a lead as possible."

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The county council invited county elected officials and department directors to an unprecedented public meeting Thursday to lay out the difficult financial picture as the council struggles to define the extent of the crisis and its effect on county services and employees.

Previously, county general fund departments and offices presented proposals for reducing their individual budgets by seven and nine percent. Council staff indicated the nine percent cuts could cover the low end of the projected shortfall (\$21 million), but if the shortfall increases, significantly greater cuts will be required.

The council's public budget panel meetings continue next week to discuss budget options. Panel meetings can be viewed live at the council web site – details below.

Budget Panels Schedules

Panel 1: 9 am - 12 pm, Tues., Oct. 21 – transportation, mobility, infrastructure, growth management and sustainable communities, as represented by county road services, planning and development services, county facilities, parks and playgrounds, solid waste services, surface water management services, the county airport (Paine Field), information services, the Boundary Review Board and the county's equipment rental and revolving fund, more commonly known as fleet management.

Panel 2: 1 - 4 pm: Wed., Oct. 22 – public safety, security, public health, affordable housing, economic development and environmental health, as represented by police, court, prosecution and corrections services, indigent legal services, the medical examiner, human services and emergency services.

Panel 3: 9 am - 12 pm: Thurs., Oct. 23 – long-term fiscal health, mandated versus discretionary spending, building strong county financial reserves, government accountability, and capital improvement plans, as represented by finance and risk management services, human resources, auditor and assessor services, and legislative and executive services.

All the panel meetings will be held in the **Henry M. Jackson Board Room**, located on the 8th floor of the **Robert J. Drewel Building**, on the County Campus at 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett. Please call 425-388-3494 to confirm meeting schedules.

- MORE -

Contact the Council

Citizens can also send comments on the budget directly by e-mail to Contact.Council@snoco.org, or by letter to Snohomish County Council, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. M/S 609, Everett, Washington 98201.

Comments on the 2009-2010 biennial budget may also be submitted through the council's budget commentary web form which can be found by going to the county's homepage at www.snoco.org and entering "**comment of the budget**" into the "**Search For**" box located in the middle top of the homepage. Then click on [Comment on the 2009-2010 Recommended Budget](#), fill out the information requested and enter your comments.

Comments about the 2009-2010 proposed county budget will be made a part of the public record, which includes your name, address, city, state, and zip code.

All Council Meetings and Hearings Are Webcast Live

To view all county council meetings and hearings live or archived go to the county's homepage at www.snoco.org and enter "[Council Webcasts](#)" into the "**Search For**" box located in the middle top of the homepage.

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