



# **Snohomish County Auditor**

Auditor Garth Fell

April 14, 2022

# Areas of Responsibility

- Elections
  - Administer all federal, state and local elections
  - Maintain voter rolls
- Recording
  - Record legal and property documents
  - Issue marriage licenses
- Licensing
  - License vehicle and vessel
  - License local businesses and employees
- Animal Services
  - Issue pet/kennel licenses
  - Provide animal-related response, investigation and enforcement thru special-commissioned animal control officers

# Designated Status

- All areas of responsibility identified as state-designated Essential Workforce during the pandemic response
  - “work to protect communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.” – Governor’s Proclamation 20-25 – 3/23/2020
- Elections has a further federal designation as Critical Infrastructure
  - “recognizes that the United States’ elections infrastructure is of such vital importance to the American way of life that its incapacitation or destruction would have a devastating effect on the country.” – CISA.GOV

# Considerations for Auditor Compensation

- Executive Leadership – Executive Director / Department Director +
- Breadth of responsibility – administrative, compliance, enforcement, constitutional rights
- Independent authority – federal and state law
- Independently accountable to voters and residents
- Highly visible work that has a significant impact on the reputation of Snohomish County and government as a whole
- Increased personal risk
  - Recent legislation to protect the safety of elections officials
  - FBI / AGO Election Threats Task Force – threats against elections officials
  - Mis / disinformation impacts on reputation
- Specific technical knowledge and experience required to be successful

# Examples of Auditor Activities and Qualifications

- Certified elections administrator
- Establish office mission, vision, priorities and goals
- Direct management team implementing strategies and projects to meet requirements, priorities and goals
- Serve on federal, state and association boards and commissions
  - U.S Elections Assistance Commission's Local Leadership Council
  - Washington State Recording Standards Commission
  - Washington State Association of County Auditors Executive Board
- Partner with federal and state agencies
  - Homeland Security
  - Washington Secretary of State's Office
  - Washington State Department of Licensing
- Collaborate with legislators, other auditors and advocacy organizations on legislative initiatives
- Represent the county on auditor functions with legislative bodies and in the media