



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Councilmembers (425) 388-3494

Council Provides Direction on 2010 County Budget

The Snohomish County Council unanimously adopted motion 09-293 on Monday July 6, formally giving guidance to Executive Aaron Reardon on its priorities for the 2010 budget.

The Council identified an over-arching theme of “Strengthening Our Economy and Preserving Essential County Services” for 2010. The passed motion states that “budget deliberations will emphasize the provision of services that will maintain safe, healthy and affordable communities in a manner that is financially sustainable.”

“We know that 2010 will be a critical budget year, so the Council needed to provide direction early to ensure that our priorities are met,” said Councilmember John Koster. Councilmember Dave Somers added, “By identifying our priorities early the Executive has more time to consider how to fit these critical issues into his budget proposal.”

It is essential to the County’s budget process that there is a visible and significant exchange between the County Council and County Executive on the priorities of both branches of County government. By having this formal exchange, the County budget will be more likely to address the issues that are most prominent in the lives of Snohomish County citizens.

“The preservation of jobs in our county is vital,” said Council Chair Mike Cooper. “We need to make sure that the 2010 budget keeps people working while maintaining other essential services provided by the county. Moving forward on our long-term transportation plan is one strategy that will make the county more livable while providing employment opportunities for county residents.”

Councilmember Dave Gossett said, “Our priorities include the protection of vulnerable citizens, strengthening the economic health of the county, and providing solutions for the long-term viability of public health services. By addressing these issues in the budget we hope to keep the county strong through this challenging economic period.”

The Executive will present his proposed budget plan to the Council in late September.

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