



Washington State
Association of Counties
The Voice of Washington Counties

Legislature Cuts County Services

County Budgets in Deficit

- King County announced this week that they would be dropping 1,500 misdemeanor cases because of a lack of funding. The 1% property tax cap continues to impact criminal justice budgets across the state.
- Many Counties are only now reaching 2008 revenue levels, while the State has experienced 15% revenue growth in the last 2 years.
- 13 counties are unable to provide 24-hour law enforcement coverage due to budget constraints.
- 90% of counties currently shift or divert road funding to their general fund for public safety, totaling \$66 million in 2017.

Legislative Asks

Pass HB 2006 – Providing Fiscal Flexibility with Existing Funds

- Makes 4 existing revenue options more useful.
- Received strong bipartisan support in the House which passed it 92-6.
- Currently in the Senate Rules Committee (next step: Senate floor action).

Provide funding for Department of Commerce to prepare a report comparing county statutory responsibilities to available revenues.

- Will inform a deeper conversation for the next biennial budget.
- The Governor and House budgets include these resources, the Senate's does not.
- Funded through \$150,000 from liquor dollars that would otherwise go to locals creating no state impact.

Pay the True Cost of Trial Court Indigent Defense

- The State is failing to provide funding to deliver effective and adequate legal representation in all 39 counties.
- The State currently pays less than 5% of total costs of the trial court indigent defense and the true cost is \$300 million/biennium.
- HB 2687 provides a 10-year phased approach providing \$21 million the first year (*or about 14% of the true cost*).

Pay the cost of new policy decisions (see other side)

Ballot Box Implementation:

Last year the Legislature passed SSB 5472, mandating counties to increase the number of ballot drop boxes provided to the public.

Several counties have subsequently made claims to the Office of Financial Management for reimbursement under RCW 43.135.060.

We request that you fund these specific reimbursements, and set aside additional resources for the remaining counties who will be making claims in 2018.

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Pay the True Cost of New Policies

The legislature is poised to pass a number of bills that will cost counties tens of millions of dollars a year. We do not have the financial resources to cover these costs. Unless the legislature pays for its policy choices, counties will once again be forced to reduce funding for public safety and criminal justice services.

The Senate budget recognizes the budget impact on state agencies, why won't the legislature recognize the impact on counties?

Wrongful Death – SB 6015

- Claims will increase by 20% at a cost of \$2.5 million a year.
- Senate provided \$1.86 million for state agencies.

Occupational Disease Presumption – SB 6213

- Cost to Counties & Cities: \$26.4 million/year.
- Senate appropriated \$2.4 million for state agencies.

PERS 1 Cost of Living Adjustment - HB 2511 & SB 6340

- Cost to Counties & Cities \$11 million/year under more expensive Senate version.
- Senate appropriated \$10.7 million for state agencies.
- House appropriated \$9.2 million for state agencies.

PTSD Industrial Insurance Coverage – SSB 6214

- Cost to Counties: For 2017-19, \$48 million-\$132 million. After that, the cost every two years is between \$5.5 million- \$15.3 million. These costs do not include self-insured jurisdictions.
- The LEOFF 2 contribution rate impact is \$500,000 for 2017-19 and \$1.2 million for 2019-21.

Same Day Voting Registration – SB 6021

- Cost to Counties: \$1 million/biennium.

Legal Financial Obligations – HB 1783

- Cost to Counties: Over \$3 million loss in the first year.
- Senate budget backfills this impact with \$5 million, earmarked for indigent defense or other costs related to criminal cases.

6 Costly Policy Bills:

SB 6015 \$2.5 M

SB 6213 \$9 M

HB 2511/
SB 6340 \$3.3 M

SSB 6214 \$10 M

SB 6021 \$500 K

HB 1783 \$3 M

**Total \$28.3
Million**

Total: \$28 million/year conservatively

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