



WASHINGTON
STATE ASSOCIATION
of **COUNTIES**

- ADAMS
- ASOTIN
- BENTON
- CHELAN
- CLALLAM
- CLARK
- COLUMBIA
- COWLITZ
- DOUGLAS
- FERRY
- FRANKLIN
- GARFIELD
- GRANT
- GRAYS HARBOR
- ISLAND
- JEFFERSON
- KING
- KITSAP
- KITTITAS
- KLICKITAT
- LEWIS
- LINCOLN
- MASON
- OKANOGAN
- PACIFIC
- PEND OREILLE
- PIERCE
- SAN JUAN
- SKAGIT
- SKAMANIA
- SNOHOMISH
- SPOKANE
- STEVENS
- THURSTON
- WAHAKIUM
- WALLA WALLA
- WHATCOM
- WHITMAN
- YAKIMA

2023

Courthouse Briefing Document

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206 Tenth Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 753-1886 | wsac.org

Who We Are

The Voice of Washington Counties

Created in 1906, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) serves the counties of Washington State. Members include elected county commissioners, councilmembers, and executives from all of Washington's 39 counties. WSAC provides a variety of services to its member counties, including advocacy, professional development, public-private business partnerships, and a forum to network and share best practices.

While voting within the organization is limited to county commissioners, council members, and county executives, the Association also serves as an umbrella organization for affiliate organizations representing:

- County Road Engineers
- Local Public Health Officials
- County Administrators
- Solid Waste Managers
- County Human Service Administrators

- IT Directors
- Planning Directors
- Clerks of County Boards

WSAC also works closely with its sister organization, the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), which serves independently elected non-judicial county officials, including assessors, auditors, treasurers, prosecutors, coroners, clerks, and sheriffs.



2022-23

WSAC Board of Directors



PRESIDENT
Mary Kunev
Spokane County



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Lisa Janicki
Skagit County



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Rob Coffman
Lincoln County



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Michael Largent
Whitman County

The WSAC Board of Directors is responsible for the general supervision over the affairs of the Association per WSAC Bylaws and adopted policies and procedures.

2022-23 ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed amicus filing requests and authorized participation
- Authorized filings and appeals of pending litigation
- Monitored Blake Decision and Indigent Defense Litigation
- Appointed Statewide Boards and Commissions
- Initiated Bylaws review and update process
- Program review and oversight
- Monitored objectives and key results for 2022-23
- Reviewed and approved 2022 Audit and Financials
- Appointed Legislative Steering Committee Members
- Appointed Federal Issue and Relations Committee Members
- Reviewed and recommended Annual Budget and Program Expenditures, Dues, and Assessments
- Monitored WSAC financial health
- Updated WSAC Comprehensive Policy Manual

BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Hutsell	Lincoln County
Dow Constantine	King County
Joe McDermott	King County
Jani Hitchen	Pierce County
Megan Dunn	Snohomish County
Josh Kerns	Spokane County
Glen Yung	Clark County
Tye Menser	Thurston County
Katie Walters	Kitsap County
Amanda McKinney	Yakima County
Satpal Sidhu	Whatcom County
Will McKay	Benton County
Wes McCart	Stevens County
Dan Sutton	Douglas County
LaDon Linde	Yakima County
Art Swannack	Whitman County
Janet St. Clair	Island County
Nate Nehring	Snohomish County
Mark Ozias	Clallam County
Christine Minney	San Juan County

ALTERNATES

Reagan Dunn	King County
Sarah Perry	King County
Ryan Mello	Pierce County
Jared Mead	Snohomish County
Al French	Spokane County
Karen Bowerman	Clark County
Gary Edwards	Thurston County
Kaylee Galloway	Whatcom County
Michael Alvarez	Benton County
Chris Seubert	Asotin County
Danny Stone	Grant County
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
Dennis Weber	Cowlitz County

2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Thurston County
- Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Grant County
- Thursday, September 21, 2023, Kittitas County
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Spokane County



Letter from

Executive Director Eric Johnson
& President Mary Kuney

Twenty-five years ago, the idea of doing courthouse “visits” was an opportunity for the Association Executive Director to hit the road and call on Commissioners, Councilmembers, and County Executives and visit in a casual and informal meeting, usually over a meal. While meaningful, it perhaps didn’t live within either the spirit or the legal parameters of the Open Public Meetings Act. It also failed to provide an intentional structure to share information about the Association, garner member input, and learn about the pressing issues facing the county.

Enter courthouse “briefings.” Since the mid 2000s, the WSAC Executive Director and President have set out each summer to meet with at least 20 county legislative authorities in their courthouse. This is a significant commitment of time but allows us to meet and see WSAC members within their county and community.

This year, we currently have 22 courthouse meetings planned. While we will share important information about the Association, we will also be spending time listening to the thoughts of WSAC members and affiliates on the issues most important to their ability to govern, lead, and manage their county.

We will be sharing important information including:

- **Association Budget and Finance Information**
- **2023 Legislative Outcomes**
- **Upcoming Legislative and Policy Development**
- **Federal Issues and Priorities**
- **“Learn” Opportunities**
- **Leadership Transition**
- **Association Bylaws Review**
- **Business Partnerships**
- **Litigation Activities**
- **And... more**

We are both pleased to serve you in our respective roles here at the Association. If at any time you would like to talk about the Association and how to improve our programs and services, please do not hesitate to reach out to either, or both, of us. We are committed to working with each of you. We strive to aid you with integrity and to stay focused on executing our responsibilities to you with civility, thoughtfulness, professionalism, and respectful dialogue. It is an honor to serve you, the elected and appointed county officials, whom the public has entrusted to lead county government in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Z. Kuney".

President Mary Kuney

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Johnson".

Executive Director Eric Johnson



Helping America prepare for and live in retirement

NACo, in partnership with Nationwide® and state associations of counties, provides county employees with a 457(b) Deferred Compensation supplemental retirement plan.

Key features of your NACo 457(b) supplemental retirement plan

- Local Retirement Specialists who make site visits and offer face-to-face consultations
- Internal Retirement Specialists available by phone through extended and weekend hours
- Educational programs and workshops
- An array of investment options and a guaranteed interest account, selected for appropriateness to retirement saving
- The ability to roll in unused sick and vacation pay
- Online account management and resources through our mobile-accessible website
- My Interactive Retirement PlannerSM, an interactive online tool that can help you build and track your retirement planning
- Morningstar® Retirement ManagerSM — a free investment-advice tool
- Service and support from Nationwide, an industry leader for more than 40 years



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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Washington’s 39 counties received \$1.5 billion in direct allocations from the American Rescue Plan in the form of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRFs). These funds will be available through December 31, 2026, and can be used for:

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Covering costs incurred from the public health emergency
- Replacing lost, related, or decreased revenues due to COVID-19 to maintain vital public services
- Supporting families, businesses, and non-profits struggling with the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic
- Making necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure
- Responding to natural disasters, including building resiliency to climate change
- Building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity

In Washington State, counties are investing ARPA funds to meet a variety of important community priorities. SLFRFs were intended to be a flexible resource for local governments to address specific pandemic related impacts in the contexts of their unique communities.

Counties received the first half of their funds in spring 2021, and the remainder of the funding in summer and fall 2022. Many counties immediately applied the first tranche of funding to emergent issues that arose from the pandemic, such as:

- Housing Assistance – Rental and Utilities
- Food Insecurity
- Small Business and Non-Profit Organization Support
- Childcare
- Technology, IT Security, and other County Facility upgrade for Courthouses, Jails, and County facilities to allow social distancing and ensure employee and public health and safety
- PPE, testing, and vaccine efforts
- Incentive pay for frontline workers

Funding has also been used to shore up community members and institutions that were negatively impacted by the pandemic, including:

- Vulnerable populations including veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and the homeless
- Small businesses
- Behavioral health providers
- Childcare providers
- Other non-profit organizations serving vulnerable people

Other initial investments are being made to housing and infrastructure projects that will take time to implement.

Projects in Washington State include:

- Broadband expansion projects
- Affordable housing development
- Sewer and water treatment upgrades
- Projects intended to address the effects of sea-level rise

Investments made in Washington Counties through ARPA funding have created stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities. These investments have allowed Counties to address impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and to create new systems and supports that leave us better prepared for future crises.



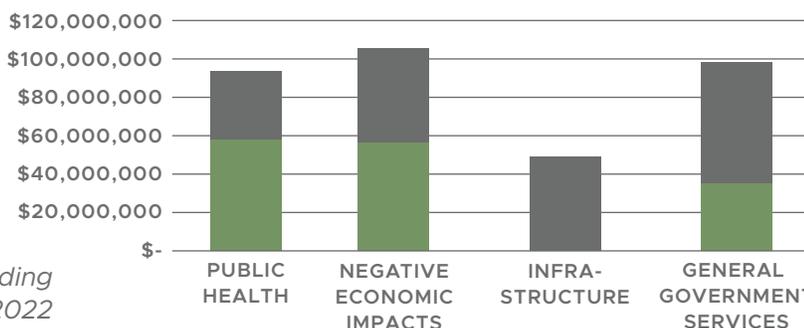
Despite not receiving the full allocation until fall of 2022, Washington’s counties have made significant headway in planning, allocating, and obligating ARPA funds. As of December of 2022, 78% of SLFRFs received by counties have been expended or distributed to other community organizations. Counties in Washington are on track to fully invest these funds in their communities by 2026.

ARPA has proven to be an essential funding source for counties during the pandemic recovery and counties continue to utilize these funds for community projects that would be impossible without this flexible, one-time disbursement of funding.

SLFRF Allocation and Spending by Category

- ALLOCATED
- EXPENDED

Allocation and spending data as of April, 2022



- Who We Are -

Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF) is a public non-profit member-run multiple employer trust established in 1958 by Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC). WCIF provides health and welfare benefits to Washington public employers and eligible non-profit entities.



“Benefits are what we do BEST!”

WCIF provides a well thought out portfolio of high-end products for our membership. With our expertise, we pay close attention to the market and benefit landscape, ensuring our members have the very finest available. Our comprehensive offerings provide employers a choice of affordable Medical, Dental, Vision, EAP, Life, AD&D, Disability, and Worksite plans that are *unmatched by our competitors.*



- What We Do -

Ensure members are supported



Ease of benefit administration



Compliance and legislative information



Unique opportunities for participating employers



We work with producers, too!

Together we are stronger while protecting your hard-earned relationships.
Contact us at info@wcif.net for more information

Finance & Administration

The Finance and Administration department is responsible for the financial functions of WSAC, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, reporting, budgeting, contracts, grants, federal and state tax reporting, payroll, and benefits. The Finance and Administration department is also responsible for the management and financial functions of the Washington Counties Building.

TEAM MEMBERS

Bridget Locking
Director,
Operations and
Administration

Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe
Operations and
Support Assistant

Venus Larimer
Finance &
Operations
Assistant

2023 ACTION ITEMS

- 1 Annual Audit for 2022
- 2 Procure New IT Services
- 3 Update WSAC Bylaws and Policy Manual
- 4 Assess and Update Dues Structure Methodologies
- 5 Formalize Financial Reserves and Investment Policies



Provides financial services for **6 associations**



Oversees over **\$6 million** in deposits and disbursements



Produces **20 sets** of financial statements and coordinates **4 tax returns**

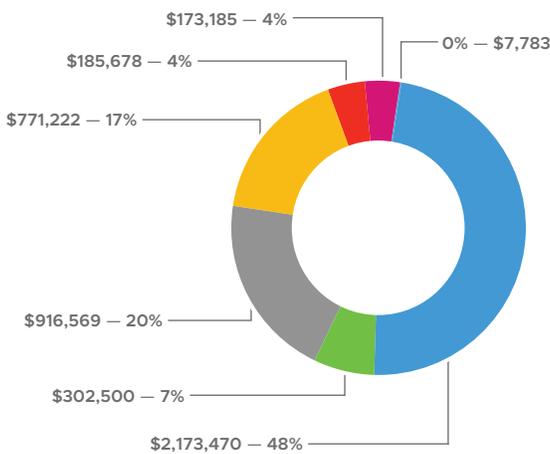
By The Numbers

2022 Summary Financials

WHERE WSAC REVENUES COME FROM

2022 Total Revenue — \$4,530,407

WSAC has a strong compliment of other funding sources to cover operating costs

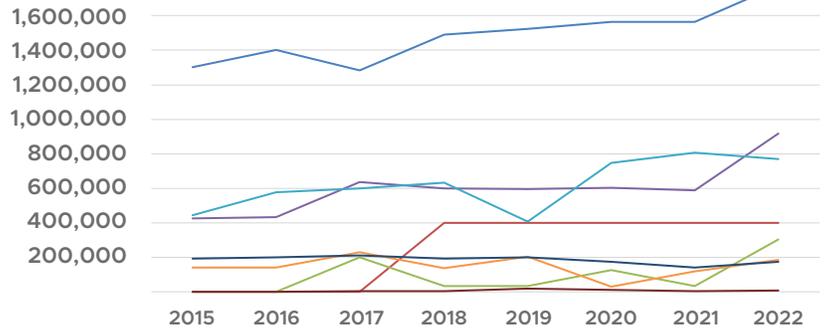


- Membership Dues
- Special Assessments
- Revenue from Affiliates
- Contract Services
- Conferences and Events
- Endorsements & Other Non-Dues
- Net Investment Income

DUES AS PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE

2015	52%
2016	49%
2017	43%
2018	54%
2019	56%
2020	54%
2021	54%
2022	48%

8 YEAR REVENUE TRENDS



- Membership Dues
- Litigation Dues
- Special Assessments
- Revenue from Affiliates
- Contract Services
- Conferences and Events
- Endorsements & Other Non-Dues
- Net Investment Income

\$239,118 ^

INCREASE IN NET INCOME FROM 2021

\$441,053 ^

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM 2021

67% ^

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS SINCE 2017

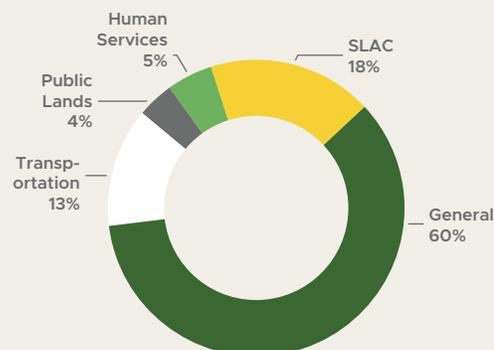
\$998,129

SPECIAL FUND CASH BALANCE

\$665,586

SLAC FUND CASH BALANCE

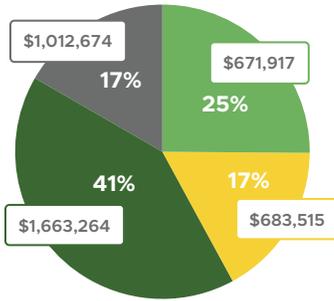
2022 DUES REVENUE BY TYPE



WSAC collects dues to support 5 main programs. Also collects assessments for 3 other special projects.

WHERE SPENDING OCCURS

2022 Total Expenditure — \$4,031,370



83% of 2022 expenses went to the team of staff and contractors

- Policy, Legislative, Litigation
- Member Services, Conferences & Events
- Affiliates and Contract Services
- General and Administrative



SUPPORTING COUNTIES

Your team of experts

10 FTE – Policy, Government, Legal

3.5 FTE – Member Services, Communication, Marketing

2.5 FTE – Administrative, Financial, Logistics

6 Contracted Professionals – 13 Services Contracts



LITIGATION

Tackling the legal issues most important to you

\$27k legal defense and consultation

\$117k Blake litigation efforts



COMMUNICATION

Marketing the stories and messages that matter

\$37k media, marketing, and brand awareness

Elevated National County Government Month to year long marketing campaign

Expanded Business Partners Program to increase non-dues revenue



CONFERENCE

Training & educating county leaders

8 in-person conferences supporting 5 associations

Nearly 700 attendees across all conferences

\$70k revenue from sponsors and vendors for County Leaders

NET INCOME & CASH RESERVES

2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Year	Net Income	Cash
2015	85,432	502,796
2016	106,118	646,280
2017	82,778	851,196
2018	238,782	749,561
2019	(88,178)	651,808
2020	68,532	661,591
2021	259,919	878,586
2022	499,037	1,783,018

NET ASSET CHANGES

Net Assets increased from new dues assessments and overall cost savings from staff vacancies.



2023 Combined Dues

County	General Dues	Transportation Dues	Public Lands Dues	Human Svcs Dues	County Planning Assessment	Solid Waste Assessment	SLAC Dues	Total Dues
Adams	6,122	2,073	100	308	213	523	3,363	12,701
Asotin	6,379	2,120	264	330	228	542	3,424	13,288
Benton	38,940	8,167	468	3,096	2,146	2,995	11,184	66,996
Chelan	16,343	3,971	4,078	1,176	815	1,293	5,799	33,474
Clallam	15,824	3,874	7,170	1,132	785	1,254	5,675	35,714
Clark	91,908	18,003	3,031	7,596	5,266	6,986	23,806	156,597
Columbia	3,178	1,526	513	58	40	301	2,662	8,277
Cowlitz	21,784	4,981	1,236	1,638	1,136	1,703	7,095	39,573
Douglas	10,052	2,802	150	642	445	819	4,300	19,210
Ferry	3,753	1,633	1,566	106	74	344	2,799	10,275
Franklin	19,621	4,579	310	1,455	1,008	1,540	6,580	35,093
Garfield	2,895	1,473	325	34	23	280	2,594	7,623
Grant	19,973	4,645	1,032	1,485	1,029	1,566	6,664	36,394
Grays Harbor	15,613	3,835	2,394	1,114	772	1,238	5,625	30,591
Island	17,553	4,195	100	1,279	887	1,384	6,087	31,485
Jefferson	8,224	2,463	3,789	486	337	681	3,864	19,845
King	319,849	60,330	3,734	33,798	23,429	30,223	78,125	549,489
Kitsap	50,714	10,353	900	4,096	2,840	3,883	13,990	86,776
Kittitas	10,602	2,904	2,366	688	477	860	4,431	22,329
Klickitat	6,474	2,138	575	338	234	549	3,447	13,754
Lewis	16,815	4,058	8,811	1,216	843	1,329	5,911	38,983
Lincoln	4,397	1,752	242	161	112	393	2,952	10,008
Mason	13,863	3,510	4,541	965	669	1,106	5,208	29,862
Okanogan	9,829	2,761	4,596	623	432	802	4,247	23,290
Pacific	6,551	2,152	2,334	344	239	555	3,465	15,640
Pend Oreille	4,839	1,834	1,704	199	138	426	3,057	12,196
Pierce	163,397	31,278	1,348	13,670	9,476	12,373	40,842	272,384
San Juan	5,615	1,978	100	265	183	485	3,242	11,869
Skagit	25,028	5,583	10,995	1,914	1,327	1,947	7,868	54,663
Skamania	4,543	1,779	4,918	174	120	404	2,987	14,925
Snohomish	147,932	28,406	8,602	12,356	8,565	11,207	37,157	254,226
Spokane	97,023	18,953	100	8,031	5,567	7,372	25,025	162,070
Stevens	10,576	2,900	1,104	686	476	858	4,424	21,024
Thurston	54,078	10,978	5,888	4,382	3,038	4,136	14,791	97,292
Wahkiakum	3,277	1,544	1,706	66	46	309	2,685	9,632
Walla Walla	13,249	3,396	100	913	633	1,060	5,062	24,413
Whatcom	42,261	8,783	5,490	3,378	2,342	3,246	11,975	77,475
Whitman	10,704	2,924	100	697	483	868	4,455	20,232
Yakima	47,118	9,685	2,417	3,791	2,628	3,612	13,133	82,384
TOTALS	1,366,897	290,321	99,196	114,684	79,500	111,454	400,000	2,462,052



VECTOR PAYMENTS

Simplify the payments experience.

With over 30 years of payment processing experience, we have seen all of the frustrations business owners deal with just so their customers can pay with a card.



Confusing Rate Structures **X**

Hidden Fees **X** Bait and Switch Tactics **X**

Contracts **X** Pushy Salespeople **X**

Our promise.

At Vector Payments we strive to simplify the payments experience, and by doing so promise to provide:



- > The guaranteed lowest overall cost commitment
- > 0% per transaction offers > Free Terminal Placement
- > Dedicated 24/7 Support > No Contracts



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Tools for the public sector to execute borrowing,
investing, and cash management decisions
with more confidence and greater ease.

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Advocacy

The Legislative Advocacy & Policy Division supports one of WSAC's primary goals - to advocate on behalf of counties at the state legislature, regulatory agencies, and executive branch offices in support of sound policy and fiscal strategies that sustain the basic government services that ensure the health and safety of all Washingtonians.

2023 ACTION ITEMS

- 1 Legislative Priorities** — Work with the state legislature to make progress on shared priorities in the 2023 legislative session.
- 2 Legislative Agenda** — Advocate for WSAC's 2023-24 biennial legislative agenda.
- 3 Legislation & Professional Development** — Work with state agencies and support members as needed in implementing legislation passed in the 2023 legislative session and developing new and ongoing professional development opportunities.



105-Day Session Summary

The 2023 legislative session was the first year of a new biennium or two-year legislative cycle. The first year is also a “long” session, lasting 105 days. Along with considering proposals for new laws, the House and Senate must also pass new biennial state budgets, including Operating, Capital, and Transportation. 2,312 bills were introduced, and 491 were passed – a significant increase in bills passed in one year from recent sessions. Legislators were back in person this session after two consecutive “virtual sessions” during the pandemic.



State Operating Budget

The legislature passed another record-breaking operating budget this year, topping \$69 billion in spending. It included a significant investment in a variety of programs to address the state's ongoing housing crisis. Strategies include funding for numerous assistance programs to reduce homelessness, increase affordable housing stock, and even create additional homeownership opportunities. The legislature declared the 2023 session as “the year of housing” with significant investments dedicated to housing, even though they did not include the Governor's proposal to borrow \$4 billion for housing spending beyond the state's debt limit.



1-Day Special Session

The legislature adjourned the 2023 legislative session without passing a new law to replace the temporary drug possession law they passed in 2021. That measure, known as the Blake fix, was set to expire at the end of June. Without a replacement law, drug possession and public consumption would become legal. However, the legislature reconvened on May 16 for a one-day special session. The legislature passed a compromise bill that goes into effect July 1. It makes drug possession and public drug use a gross misdemeanor. Offenders may face jail time for the first and second offenses of 180 days and up to 364 for the third offense. The new law also includes opportunities for offenders to seek treatment instead of jail.

STAFF MEMBERS

Juliana Roe
Senior Policy Director

Paul Jewell
Senior Policy Director

Jaime Bodden
Managing Director,
WSALPHO

Axel Swanson
Managing Director,
WSACE

Brianna Steere
FPHS Policy Advisor

Chris Goodwin
FPHS Policy Advisor

Travis Dutton
Policy Analyst

Curtis Steinhauer
Policy Analyst

Mike Hoover
Policy Consultant

Legislative Steering Committee

The Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) is responsible for preparing and recommending a proposed legislative agenda for the review and approval of the active WSAC members. The LSC monitors the events of each legislative session and is empowered to adopt policy relating to legislation, executive branch policies and operation, and the activities of other organizations and associations.



39 COUNTIES INVOLVED

Kate Dean,
Co-Chair
Jefferson County
Commissioner

Brad Peck,
Co-Chair
Franklin County
Commissioner

2023 ACTION ITEMS

- 1 **LSC Meetings** — Meet in person/hybrid every other week during the legislative session to review and take positions on critical legislation affecting counties.
- 2 **County Priority Updates** — Engage with leaders from state agencies and the legislature to keep them apprised of county priorities.
- 3 **Legislative Agenda** — Develop and update WSAC legislative agenda for the 2023-24 biennium.

➤ PREPARING FOR 2024

WSAC was fortunate to accomplish its adopted 2023-24 legislative agenda in the first year of the new biennial session. This provides a unique opportunity to make additional progress on critical statewide priorities for counties. **The LSC will:**

- Revisit and further evaluate the list of potential priorities developed in 2022 that weren't included in the final, focused agenda adopted by the WSAC membership.
- Meet in September to develop a recommended proposal for an updated 2023-24 legislative agenda.
- Seek approval for the recommendation updated 2023-24 legislative agenda from WSAC membership.

LEGISLATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE (LSC) ROSTER

Dan Blankenship Adams County	Richard Dahl Cowlitz County	Jill Johnson Island County	Dan Christopher Klickitat County	Ryan Mello Pierce County Council	Megan Dunn Snohomish County Council	Todd Kimball Walla Walla County
Chris Seubert Asotin County	Dan Sutton Douglas County	Kate Dean Jefferson County	Sean Swope Lewis County	Paul Herrera Pierce County Council Alternate	Dave Somers Snohomish County Executive	Kaylee Galloway Whatcom County Council
Michael Alvarez Benton County	Brian Dansel Ferry County	Sarah Perry King County Council	Scott Hutsell Lincoln County	Bruce Dammeier Pierce County Executive	Al French Spokane County	Satpal Sidhu Whatcom County Executive
Kevin Overbay Chelan County	Brad Peck Franklin County	Dow Constantine King County Executive	Sharon Trask Mason County	Christine Minney San Juan County	Wes McCart Stevens County	Art Swannack Whitman County
Mark Ozias Clallam County	Jim Nelson Garfield County	Katie Walters Kitsap County Alternate	Chris Branch Okanogan County	Lisa Janicki Skagit County	Carolina Mejia Thurston County	Amanda McKinney Yakima County
Michelle Belkot Clark County	Danny Stone Grant County	Laura Osiadacz Kittitas County	Lisa Olsen Pacific County	John Gentle Pend Oreille County	Lee Tischer Wahkiakum County	
Glen Yung Clark County Alternate	Jill Warne Grays Harbor County					

Legislative Priorities

Counties are critical in Washington State's government system. They are providers of regional services that support the needs of residents and other government systems. Counties are responsible for implementing the laws the state legislature passes, and they need resources to fulfill that responsibility. To be successful, counties and the state must be strong partners.

TO IMPROVE THAT PARTNERSHIP, COUNTIES PURSUED THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN 2023:



Modernizing Justice to Support and Promote Recovery

Issue

Counties face many obstacles in successfully operating, maintaining, and providing services, like physical and behavioral health (BH), in their jails. Due to state hospital backlogs, individuals with BH needs are spending weeks and months in county jails. Most county jails were constructed in the 1980s, with several built in the early 1900s. Aging facilities have led to years of failing systems and patchwork fixes. These factors and others have created issues with adequate capacity, proper staffing, and poorly designed facilities for providing modern treatment needs.

Legislative Ask

The legislature should commission the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to gather and assess foundational information about jails and report on its findings. The information should include changes in jail populations and the current state and costs of jail facilities. In addition, the legislature should commission the Ruckelshaus Center to convene and lead a Jail Modernization Task Force (Task Force) to consider the WSIPP findings. The Task Force should also consider any resulting legislation from the Criminal Sentencing Task Force and the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards and other pertinent issues. The Task Force should report its findings and recommendations and submit them to the legislature in an initial report by July 1, 2025 and a final report by December 31, 2025.

Outcome

WSAC was successful in getting the legislature to include a proviso in the State Operating Budget commissioning WSIPP to conduct a study on the jail system and a coinciding Jail Modernization Task Force led by the Ruckelshaus Center. In fact, the proviso ended up being more expansive than we'd hoped because it also includes a study of juvenile facilities. This expansion is an important step toward a more comprehensive understanding of our state's criminal justice system.



Behavioral Health System Improvements – Network Adequacy

Issue

Current behavioral health (BH) network adequacy standards are lacking in Washington. In fact, network adequacy standards are virtually non-existent. This results in gaps in access to critical services for Medicaid clients. Clients face difficulties getting into treatment, long wait times, and are unable to get the care they need.

Legislative Ask

The State/ Health Care Authority (HCA) shall establish, measure, and enforce BH network adequacy standards.

Outcome

The legislature passed E2SHB 1515, which requires the HCA to do a number of things including, but not limited to, seeking approval to amend the State Medicaid Plan to support direct payments to agencies to help with 24/7 crisis system capacity and to adopt network adequacy standards and an annual network adequacy review process for Managed Care Organization (MCO) BH provider networks within the Medicaid program. This was a great win for counties and our communities. It will ensure that people have access to a network of providers sufficient in numbers and types to make services available to all clients without unreasonable delay.



Federal Transportation Fund Exchange

Issue

Federal funding is vital to the success of county transportation programs. However, federal funds often have added requirements, resulting in heftier price tags and longer timelines for local projects. Federal funding also often requires a local match and is provided on a reimbursable basis, which can cause cashflow problems, especially for smaller jurisdictions.

Legislative Ask

Allow counties to swap their sub-allocation of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for state transportation dollars. An exchange like this would allow counties to deliver projects with state, rather than federal, resources, thereby rendering projects subject to applicable state and local, not federal, requirements.

Outcome

The 2023-25 Transportation Budget establishes a \$25 million Federal Fund Exchange Pilot Program. The exchange rate for the swap is a .95 to \$1.00 ratio and the language requires a report on the program by December 2024.



Support the Critical Facilities Rural Counties Need

Issue

The rural sales tax credit program dates back to 1998 and allows rural counties (33 of 39) to fund crucial economic development and affordable workforce housing programs. This is a very successful program that lets counties get more “bang for the buck” by partnering with other local agencies to maximize dollars and deliver needed infrastructure and facilities without tapping limited state capital funds. In short, it helps fund numerous small projects that might not otherwise make it into traditional state budgets, generating about \$50 million each year for rural counties to use without adding any new taxes. It works instead as a credit against state sales tax which is already collected. The credit is currently set to expire around 2034, depending on when a county first implemented it.

Legislative Ask

Extend the tax through 2054. The effect on the state budget is small and already assumed, so there is no new fiscal impact on the state or taxpayers. The program has proven effective and accountable. It is critical to fund essential public facilities, promote economic growth and support affordable housing. Since such projects take time to develop and implement, rural counties need assurances that this fund source will be available in the future.

Outcome

HB 1267 extends the expiration of the rural sales tax credit by another 20 years to 2054. This bill was enacted with near-unanimous bipartisan support. This extension gives locals the certainty needed to continue work and formulate long-term plans for projects that often need a long lead time to plan and construct. The bill also contains updated reporting requirements that will make it easier to track funds and projects across the state for future state and local planning and to ensure accountability.



Federal Priorities

LEARN MORE:
www.wsac.org/federal

The Washington State Association of Counties works closely with the National Association of Counties (NACo) in federal policy development and advocacy pertaining to proposed federal legislation, agency actions as well as other federal issues and proposals that have direct impact and nexus to the operations and administration of county government in Washington State.

As part of the 2023 WSAC Federal Policies and Positions, WSAC members adopted these Federal Priority Issues:

Medicaid Inmate Exclusion – Congress needs to reinstate federal health care benefits for non-convicted justice involved individuals. Congress must address the crisis caused by this callous Medicaid inmate exclusion policy that strips individuals who are still presumed innocent of their federal benefits.

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – This vital funding mechanism ensures counties receive property tax like compensation for federal lands within their boundaries. Full, predictable, and permanent mandatory funding for the PILT programs is needed to assure counties receive a property tax like compensation for federal lands within their boundaries. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, Washington’s counties (37 of 39) received \$26.3 million in PILT.

Secure Rural Schools (SRS) – Permanent reauthorization and funding of the SRS program is important to Washington State counties. In FFY21, Washington’s counties (27 of 39) received \$16.02 million in SRS funding. We ask Congress to:

- Repeal the 5% automatic reduction in payment
- Restore full funding of SRS back to historic 25% funding level counties received with inflation built into the payment mechanism.
- Provide for yearly election of Title II/III designation
- Allow Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) appointments to be made at the regional or local forest level.

Active Forest Management and Catastrophic Wildfires – Congress and the Administration must act to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. A joint study conducted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the United States Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy found that 2.7 million acres of eastern Washington forestland needs restoration. Federal lands account for 42 percent of the unhealthy forest identified. Policies and legislation, as well as pilot programs and projects, are needed to renew the federal government’s commitment to manage federal forests for the benefit of counties containing federal forestland. Management should be conducted in a manner that produces a sustainable resource yield, improves forest health, protects the environment, and aids in the prevention of catastrophic wildfires.

Workforce and Homelessness Housing – The lack of affordable housing at the state and local level is a national crisis. Over the years, housing has become more and more unaffordable. Homeowners are forced to either live beyond their financial resources and/or live long distances from the communities in which they work. This commute creates transportation, transit, and social issues that put demands on counties’ programs and services. This is certainly true in every county in Washington State. It is important that all levels of government collaborate, along with private sector and non-governmental organizations, on their respective roles in reducing housing costs and increasing the supply of affordable housing options, including the federal/county partnership. WSAC supports legislation and programs that makes funding available to state and local governments to address affordable and workforce housing needs.

2023 FEDERAL ISSUES AND RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dan Blankenship
Adams County
Commissioner

Kate Dean
Jefferson County
Commissioner

Lindsey Pollock
Lewis County
Commissioner

Cindy Wolf
San Juan County
Councilmember

Wes McCart
Stevens County
Commissioner

Kevin Overbay
Chelan County
Commissioner

Heidi Eisenhour
Jefferson County
Commissioner

Sharon Trask
Mason County
Commissioner

Ron Wesen
Skagit County
Commissioner

Eric Johnson
Executive Director

Dennis Weber
Cowlitz County
Commissioner

Janet St. Clair
Island County
Commissioner

Jani Hitchen
Pierce County
Councilmember

Mary Kuney
Spokane County
Commissioner

Juliana Roe
Senior Policy Director
and Interim General
Counsel

Public Land Payments

County	SRS/Fed FY 2021	PILT/Fed FY 2022	Dept of Energy FY 2022	Refuge (RRSA) Federal FY22	DFW PILT 2020-2022	DNR PILT FY 2022	DNR/Timber 6Yr Annual Avg	Total	% of Total Revenue
Adams	-	61,764	-	6,124	1,909	1,176	-	70,973	0.07%
Asotin	65,147	186,150	-	494	36,123	-	-	287,914	0.27%
Benton	-	188,723	1,020,811	6,404	-	-	-	1,215,938	1.13%
Chelan	1,088,903	3,477,422	-	11,219	39,858	12,294	-	4,629,696	4.31%
Clallam	830,341	1,225,189	-	7,790	-	1,819	6,028,583	8,093,722	7.54%
Clark	3,511	2,696	-	28,830	-	2,003	5,461,088	5,498,128	5.12%
Columbia	142,309	419,913	-	689	20,713	-	-	583,624	0.54%
Cowlitz	130,686	38,876	-	1,675	-	1,630	1,960,960	2,133,827	1.99%
Douglas	1	171,036	-	-	-	322	-	171,359	0.16%
Ferry	791,377	962,191	-	-	22,798	-	-	1,776,366	1.65%
Franklin	-	188,021	188,268	84	-	692	-	377,065	0.35%
Garfield	78,217	267,136	-	-	12,744	-	-	358,097	0.33%
Grant	-	822,088	604,063	5,897	71,930	131	-	1,504,109	1.40%
Grays Harbor	309,232	306,833	-	4,230	-	93,493	1,508,651	2,222,439	2.07%
Island	-	2,206	-	-	-	-	-	2,206	0.00%
Jefferson	882,971	1,738,808	-	26,268	-	77,220	898,097	3,623,365	3.37%
King	202,854	971,086	-	-	-	453,083	1,924,183	3,551,206	3.31%
Kitsap	-	-	-	-	-	61,795	1,446,576	1,508,371	1.40%
Kittitas	633,932	1,259,643	-	-	382,638	367,202	-	2,643,415	2.46%
Klickitat	43,972	121,977	-	42,200	51,019	51,812	183,606	494,586	0.46%
Lewis	1,536,647	769,569	-	235	-	1,490	5,421,144	7,729,085	7.20%
Lincoln	-	261,409	-	-	13,535	376	-	275,320	0.26%
Mason	318,562	354,065	-	-	-	21,595	4,637,518	5,331,741	4.96%
Okanogan	1,590,320	2,995,582	-	1,052	264,036	124,901	-	4,975,891	4.63%
Pacific	-	7,601	-	67,863	-	39,699	1,962,688	2,077,851	1.93%
Pend Oreille	649,446	1,269,568	-	409	5,546	-	-	1,924,969	1.79%
Pierce	213,234	903,827	-	1,730	-	595	377,462	1,496,848	1.39%
San Juan	-	7,260	-	-	-	18,525	-	25,785	0.02%
Skagit	477,515	1,371,776	-	-	-	294,001	9,569,318	11,712,610	10.91%
Skamania	3,109,050	353,263	-	8,115	-	39,672	1,713,243	5,223,343	4.86%
Snohomish	605,317	1,596,389	-	-	-	420,088	7,450,721	10,072,514	9.38%
Spokane	-	6,040	-	58,468	-	24,548	-	89,056	0.08%
Stevens	310,754	684,264	-	163,267	-	3,366	82,940	1,244,591	1.16%
Thurston	1,137	1,340	-	20,232	-	101,496	4,336,230	4,460,435	4.15%
Wahkiakum	-	-	-	15,077	-	4,081	1,620,743	1,639,901	1.53%
Walla Walla	2,981	31,937	-	5,216	-	-	-	40,134	0.04%
Whatcom	821,358	2,174,708	-	-	-	8,495	2,805,865	5,810,426	5.41%
Whitman	-	62,695	-	-	-	-	-	62,695	0.06%
Yakima	1,180,740	1,049,300	-	7,130	186,056	28,279	-	2,451,504	2.28%
Totals:	16,020,512	26,312,351	1,813,142	490,698	1,108,905	2,255,879	59,389,616	107,391,103	100.00%

Litigation & Amicus

In 2018, the WSAC Membership established the Strategic Litigation, Advocacy, and Communication (SLAC) Program designed to use legal actions as an effective tool to advance the WSAC policy agenda in coordination with legislative advocacy strategies and actions. WSAC's legal actions are used sparingly and as a last resort.

CURRENT LITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Trueblood Contempt Sanctions

The WSAC Board of Directors voted during its May 10, 2023, regular meeting to file an amicus curie brief in State of Washington, et. al., Respondents, vs. DSHS, COA No. 57573-6-II. The issue is whether counties can seek compensatory contempt sanctions against the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) when DSHS fails to timely transport Trueblood class members from jail, for admission at a state hospital for competency restoration, leaving counties to cover the costs of incarceration until the class members are transported. There is also a question as to whether a county may intervene in an underlying matter in order to pursue contempt sanctions against DSHS. The amicus brief is due 45 days after the last brief of the respondent which is currently due on June 21, 2023.

Indigent Defense

The WSAC Board of Directors voted unanimously during their May 5, 2021, regular meeting to concur with the findings provided by the WSAC Legal Committee and Legislative Steering Committee that there are merits and reasonable grounds to support a legal challenge to require the State to fully fund constitutionally required trial court indigent defense services and authorized a legal challenge. WSAC anticipates filing this legal complaint sometime in 2023. To date, two counties, Yakima and Lincoln, have joined as co-plaintiffs. A variety of legal analyses and budget documentation is underway.

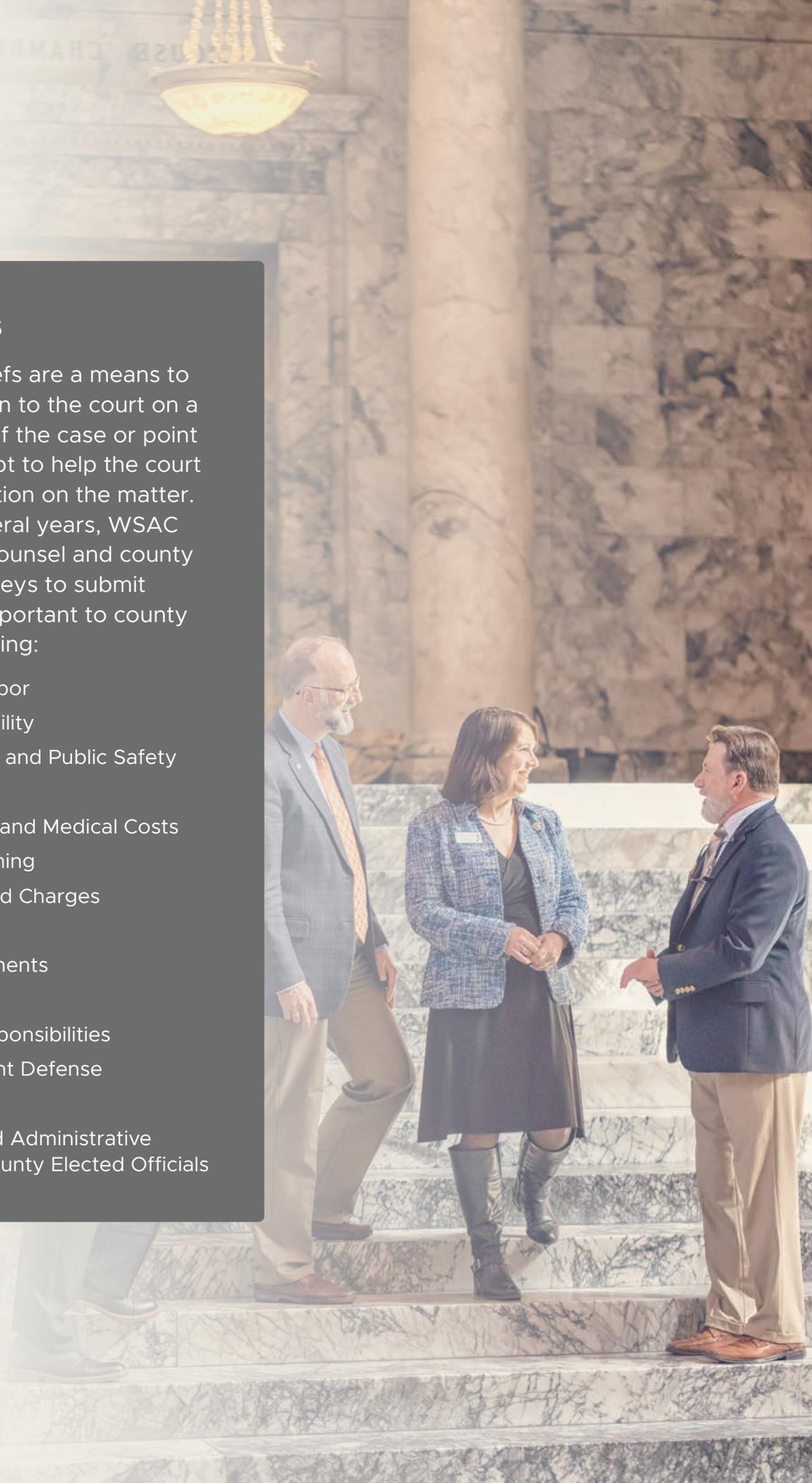
Blake Decision

On October 3, 2021, WSAC formally joined 21 counties as a co-plaintiff against the State to establish that the State is solely responsible for all costs associated with implementing the Blake decision, including the cost of vacations, re-sentencings, and for all Legal Financial Obligation (LFO) refunds. The desired outcome is a declaration from the court that the State is required to indemnify counties for all Blake expenses, including all LFO refunds and the administrative costs to implement this Washington State Supreme Court decision (judicial, clerk, prosecutor, public defense, administration, and operations) that counties will incur in implementing the Blake decision. Negotiations are occurring with the Attorney General's Office and legislation was passed for the Administrative Office of the Courts to create a process to directly reimburse individuals who paid LFOs as a result of a Blake conviction.

Amicus Briefs

Amicus Curiae Briefs are a means to provide information to the court on a particular aspect of the case or point of law in an attempt to help the court make a determination on the matter. Over the past several years, WSAC has worked with counsel and county prosecuting attorneys to submit briefs on issues important to county government including:

- Personnel and Labor
- Public Works Liability
- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Public Health
- Corrections, Jails and Medical Costs
- Land Use and Zoning
- Taxation, Fees and Charges
- Public Records
- Franchise Agreements
- Juror Pay
- Public Health Responsibilities
- Trial Court Indigent Defense
- County Charter
- Constitutional and Administrative Authorities for County Elected Officials



Communications & Member Services

The Communications and Member Services Division oversees all external and internal communications and public-private partnerships that provide cost-saving services to counties. The department also produces in-person, hybrid, and virtual conferences that provide members and affiliates with networking and professional development opportunities.

TEAM MEMBERS

Bridget Lockling
Director, Operations and Administration

Tyler Melhart
Graphic/Web Design Manager

Mitch Netzer
Communications Manager

Jessica Strozewski
Member Experience Manager

2023 ACTION ITEMS

- 1 WAndercounties** — Continued the #WAndercounties marketing campaign to engage members, affiliates, and constituents in recognizing the great things about their counties.
- 2 Association Management System** — Opened and closed an RFP for an Association Management System (AMS) provider, and interviewed and hired a provider, ToucanTech. This database management system will give WSAC the ability to track engagement, maintain records, and organize the entire organization's communications and data strategy.
- 3 Business Partners** — Added multiple Business Partners, including Public Surplus, a surplus selling and auctioning site that will benefit member counties and WSAC as a whole.
- 4 County Trainings** — Finalized the 10-part County Development Institute of Washington's (CDIWA) Certified Public Official (CPO) curriculum and added multiple environmental trainings with many more in development.

Facebook
2,900 page likes
2.5% increase from 2021

Twitter
2,020 followers
3.5% increase from 2021

Instagram
682 followers

LinkedIn
741 followers

2022 ENGAGEMENT

Website
216,452 page views
192,222 website visitors

Meetings
45 Virtual Assemblies
40 Hybrid Meetings



Washington State Association of Counties Membership Benefits

Our mission at the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is to be a voice for Washington State's 39 counties through advocacy, education, programs, services, and collaboration.

OUR GUIDING CORE VALUES:

- ▶ LEADERSHIP
- ▶ INTEGRITY
- ▶ ETHICS
- ▶ TRUST
- ▶ VISION
- ▶ RESPECT
- ▶ COLLABORATION
- ▶ FINANCIAL STABILITY

Advocacy

The Legislative Advocacy & Policy Division supports one of WSAC's primary goals – to advocate on behalf of counties at the state legislature, regulatory agencies, and executive branch offices in support of sound policy and fiscal strategies that sustain the basic government services that ensure the health and safety of all Washingtonians.

Training and Education

WSAC offers resources, such as the Newly Elected Officials training, to complete your legally required education, and the County Development Institute, an on-demand certification program, to kickstart your knowledge of county government. Live events include regularly scheduled virtual assemblies addressing emerging issues, and the County Leaders Conference which brings together county leadership to learn and network.

Legal Services

The Strategic Litigation, Advocacy, and Communication Program ensures that the use of legal action is an effective tool to advance the WSAC policy agenda in coordination with legislative advocacy strategies and actions. Our legal actions are used sparingly and as a last resort.

Information, Research, and Resources

The staff at WSAC are committed to providing you with useful, responsive, and time-sensitive data so you can make informed decisions and respond to emerging issues. Our website contains data dashboards, legislative policy agendas, end-of-session reports, annual reports, and important links to many other areas of resources that can be your go-to when researching.

What's in it for my County?

WSAC is committed to providing you and your counties with many resources and benefits to help you succeed in your position and for counties to grow and prosper from the advocacy work done on your behalf.

Affiliate Support

WSAC supports many different Washington county associations whose members serve at all levels of county government. WSAC provides professional development trainings and networking, support for associations with conference services, makes information available, and acts as a voice for counties at the State and Federal levels. We're dedicated to continuing work with affiliate associations, supporting our county professionals, and creating stronger local governments across the state.

Cost Savings

WSAC has a growing list of business partners that are dedicated to partnering with counties to provide cost savings and grow public-private connections to foster relationships. We also work with the National Association of Counties (NACo), utilizing their nationwide buying power to save you more.

[Visit WSAC.org for More Information](https://www.wsac.org)

Affiliate Directory

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) supports many different kinds of county associations across the state, serving all levels of county government. WSAC does this by providing professional development trainings, networking, supporting associations with conference services, making information available, and acting as a voice for counties at the Washington State Legislature and in Congress in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (NACo). WSAC is dedicated to continue its work with affiliate associations and support our county professionals and creating stronger local governments across the state.



accis
Association of County and
City Information Systems

ACHS
Association of County
Human Services



SWISS

WACCC
Washington Association of
County Commissioners / Council Clerks

WACSWM
Washington Association of
County Solid Waste Managers

WCAA
Washington County
Administration Association

WSACE
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY ENGINEERS

WSACRPD
Washington State Association of County
& Regional Planning Directors



WSALPHO
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS



WSEMA
Washington State Emergency Management Association



**WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY**
EXTENSION

Visit [WSAC.org/affiliates](https://www.wsac.org/affiliates) for More Information

Business Partner Directory



Washington counties are engaged in delivering a broad range of services from public health and safety to road construction, environmental mitigation, and social services. With over 35,000 employees serving over 7.5 million residents, counties are looking to private and nonprofit sectors for innovation and solutions to improve their performance. Learn more about these services and how they can help improve service delivery and benefits to your county.



Nationwide

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) provides county employees with a Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program. Since its inception in 1980, NACo's Deferred Compensation Program has grown to become the largest supplemental retirement income program available to county employees.

Kristopher Morton

Program Director
k.morton@nationwide.com
(614) 398-7184
nrsforu.com

Liberty Mutual Insurance

Through your affiliation with WSAC, this exclusive program gives your county a competitive edge and your employees an exclusive group discount on auto, home, and other lines of personal insurance. Plus, with Liberty Mutual's onsite educational events, you can deliver the tools your employees need to stay safe and secure in your workplace.

Vicki Haworth

Lead Sales Representative
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(360) 705-0600
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Live Healthy Prescription

The NACo Prescription Discount Card is provided to you in a joint effort of your local county government and the National Association of Counties (NACo). Any county resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have prescription insurance coverage, you may still benefit from the discount card since it may save you money on prescriptions your existing plan does not cover.

John Losh

Member Outreach Manager
jlosh@naco.org
(202) 661-8832
nacohealth.org

NACo - National Association of Counties

The National Association of Counties Financial Services Corporation (NACo FSC) leverages NACo’s networks, evaluates emerging market county needs and establishes sustainable, cost-saving and value-added solutions that can be applied nationwide. By providing quality solutions, we strive to develop and maintain healthy, vibrant and safe counties across the United States.

Paul Terragno
Managing Director
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Public Surplus

Public Surplus has been helping government agencies sell their surplus for over 20 years. Public Surplus is excited to announce a new partnership with WSAC. Call us today to learn how your county can benefit.

Jaren Waters
Account Executive
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(801) 932-7000 (ext. 428)
wsac.org/businesspartners/public-surplus/

Enterprise Fleet Management

Privately-held, full-service fleet management business for companies, government agencies and organizations operating medium-sized fleets of 20 or more vehicles, as well as those seeking an alternative to employee reimbursement programs.

Laura Clarke
Sr. Account Executive
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NextEra Energy Resources

NextEra Energy Resources is America’s premier clean energy leader and the world’s largest producer of wind and solar energy. We develop, construct and operate power projects to produce electricity. Equally important, we are dedicated to quality, committed to environmental stewardship, and care about our communities.

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nexteraenergyresources.com

WCIF - Washington Counties Insurance Fund

WCIF was established in 1958 by the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to provide more cost-efficient health benefits for county employees. WCIF is a public non-profit multiple employer benefit trust (501 C9) that provides health and welfare benefits for the employees of counties and other publicly funded entities. WCIF currently provides services to over 100 participating employers within the State of Washington.

Bobby Jackson
Executive Director
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cashVest by three+one

A liquidity data tool for the public sector & higher Ed to execute borrowing, investing, and cash management decisions with more confidence and greater ease. Because three+one is neither a bank nor a Registered Investment Advisor, we provide a pure and independent perspective on making certain every dollar you have is being put to work efficiently, every day.

Samantha Rothschild
Marketing Coordinator
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Vector Payments

Our company brings decades of payments experience to further help local businesses apart of the WSAC network with the guaranteed lowest overall cost commitment including offers at 0% cost to you, best equipment available, and 24/7 personal support to ensure credit card processing is NEVER a pain point anymore.

Ryan Mirpanah
Managing Partner
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vectorpayments.com

Waste Connections

Waste Connections is one of the largest full-service provider of solid waste collection, providing non-hazardous solid waste collection, recycling and landfill disposal services to commercial, industrial, municipal and residential customers. Waste Connections is the third largest solid waste management company in North America with a network of operations in 41 states and 6 provinces.

Mark Gingrich
Division Vice President
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wasteconnections.com

SSC - Sanitary Service Company

SSC provides full service recycling and solid waste collection for residential and commercial customers. SSC works closely with Whatcom County on solid waste and recycling issues and provides services consistent with the County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan.

Ted Carlson
General Manager
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(360) 738-7853
ssc-inc.com

Security Solutions

We provide piece of mind with security solutions that work. We work with our customers to develop security and fire systems that are designed to meet your unique needs as a county government.

Jamie Vos
President
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(360) 815-2771
ssnw.co

Hampton Lumber

Hampton Lumber is a fourth-generation, family-owned company headquartered in Portland, OR. Hampton operates ten sawmills in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia and markets wood products all over the world. Our forestlands are certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), an independent, non-profit organization that promotes sustainable forest management.

Kristin Rasmussen
Director of Public Affairs & Communications
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(503) 203-6563
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Adobe

Do your best work online with Adobe Acrobat. Convert files to PDF, compress PDF documents, and share and store your files with Adobe Acrobat Pro. Adobe invented the PDF format. So when you use our online PDF converter tools, you can trust you'll get the highest quality results.

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<https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/online.html>

WSAC Programs

Columbia River Caucus

The Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program was initiated by the legislature in 2006. The purpose of the program is to seek out and develop new water supply in eastern Washington. New water supplies are intended for both in-stream and out-of-stream use; water from projects funded by the program are allocated 1/3 for in-stream use and 2/3 for out-of-stream use.

WSAC receives funding from the Department of Ecology to provide staff support to eastern Washington county commissioners. This allows commissioners to participate as full partners in the program. The commissioners meet quarterly as the Columbia River Caucus.

2022-2023 ACTIVITIES

- Continue to monitor and engage in deliberations and negotiations on the Columbia River Treaty.
- Ensure counties have a voice in Ecology's management of the Columbia River Water Supply Program.
- Support quarterly meetings of the Columbia River Caucus.
- Support the Commissioner representatives at the quarterly meetings of the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group (CR-PAG).
- Continue to attend and participate in the CR-PAG as needed.
- Facilitate regular discussions and meetings with members and the Director of the Office of Columbia River.
- Completed the 5-part water policy training program in the fall of 2022. The program was recorded and will be available online for further use by WSAC members.
- Monitor statewide policy development on water resource management issues directly related to the Columbia River and, more broadly, to keep Caucus members informed of changes.



21 COUNTIES INVOLVED

Wes McCart, Chair
Stevens County
Commissioner

Paul Jewell
Senior Policy Director

Travis Dutton
Policy Analyst

Counties Coastal Caucus

The Washington State Association of Counties created the Coastal Counties Caucus, comprised of 14 counties bordering Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Pacific Ocean, shortly before the creation of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) in 2007. The Caucus creates a forum for counties to interact, engage, and recommend WSAC positions on issues relating to the waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and the Pacific Ocean. The program also supports members of the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board and Salmon Recovery Council, both of which have county elected official representation. The Caucus works to ensure coastal county interests and priorities are brought forward to the Legislative Steering Committee, state and federal agencies, tribal nations, and other key stakeholders.



14 COUNTIES INVOLVED

Ron Wesen, Chair
Skagit County
Commissioner

Brynn Brady
Program Consultant

2022-2023 ACTIVITIES

- Support WSAC members serving on Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Boards, Councils and Committees and coordinate representation in PSP meetings and other state efforts that impact communities along the Puget Sound and Pacific coast.
- Ensure county policy interests are considered in the implementation of the 2022-2026 PSP Action Agenda.
- Assisted with the creation of a WSAC policy statement for statewide salmon recovery and advocated those interests during the 2023 legislative session.
- Planned and coordinated the annual meeting for the WSAC County Leaders Conference to include a briefing on the Floodplains by Design funding from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and a joint discussion with County planning directors, Washington Environmental Council, WDFW and tribes on developing and implementing a state net ecological gain policy.
- Assisted policy staff with workgroup activities related to net ecological gain and riparian habitat standards.
- Communicated Puget Sound Partnership legislative priorities and opportunities for legislative briefings.
- Monitoring and communicating to Coastal Counties about shared work plan priorities for the Salmon Recovery Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board, including:
 - Implement and adaptively manage the 2022-2026 Action Agenda and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan for a more resilient Puget Sound ecosystem
 - Develop, advance, and monitor necessary policy changes to protect and recovery Puget Sound, including salmon and other imperiled species and their habitats
 - Strengthen and broaden relationships with vulnerable populations and overburdened communities to build meaningful and equitable participation within the Puget Sound recovery network
 - Support the Partnership in providing early and often engagement and communication, in addition to consultation, for all tribal nations
 - Broaden and enhance the knowledge network that supports Puget Sound ecosystem recovery, including by improving coordination and integrating diverse types of knowledge
 - Maintain, expand, and diversify funding for the recovery effort and ensure partners have capacity to scale recovery work with increased investments.

Timber and Public Lands Program

The timber counties program works diligently to support, advocate for, and represent our member counties with interests in timberland management issues. This includes counties that are beneficiaries of state forestlands and counties with other private, state, and federal forestlands utilized for commercial timber harvest, conservation, recreation, and other purposes.

2022-2023 ACTIVITIES

- Provide advice and support for county representation in the Timber, Fish, and Wildlife (TFW) principles meetings.
- Mark Meleason, contractor for WSAC, continues to represent WSAC on the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review (CMER) Committee.
- Court Stanley, contractor for WSAC, continues to represent WSAC on the TFW Policy Committee and monitors the activities of the adaptive management program.
- Continued monitoring and follow-up with DNR on implementation of the trust lands performance assessment.
- Support quarterly meetings of the Timber Counties Caucus.
- Completed an intensive two-day timberland management policy training in the Spring of 2022. The session was recorded and is available for review and use by WSAC members.
- Facilitated a workgroup of WSAC members and others to develop proposals for implementing an encumbered lands replacement program for state forestlands. The proposals were adopted by the WSAC Board of Directors and passed by the legislature in law as part of HB 1460.
- Develop a process for implementing another proviso authorizing additional funding to replace encumbered state forestlands.



39 COUNTIES INVOLVED

Tom Lannen, Chair
Skamania County Commissioner

Paul Jewell
Senior Policy Director

Travis Dutton
Policy Analyst

Court Stanley
Program Consultant

Mark Meleason
Program Consultant

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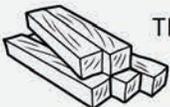
3-4 TREES PLANTED FOR EACH ONE HARVESTED



10 SAWMILLS IN OREGON, WASHINGTON & BC



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THAT WOOD STORED **2.1M** METRIC TONS OF CO2E.

ENOUGH TO OFFSET THE ANNUAL EMISSIONS OF **+456K** PASSENGER VEHICLES.



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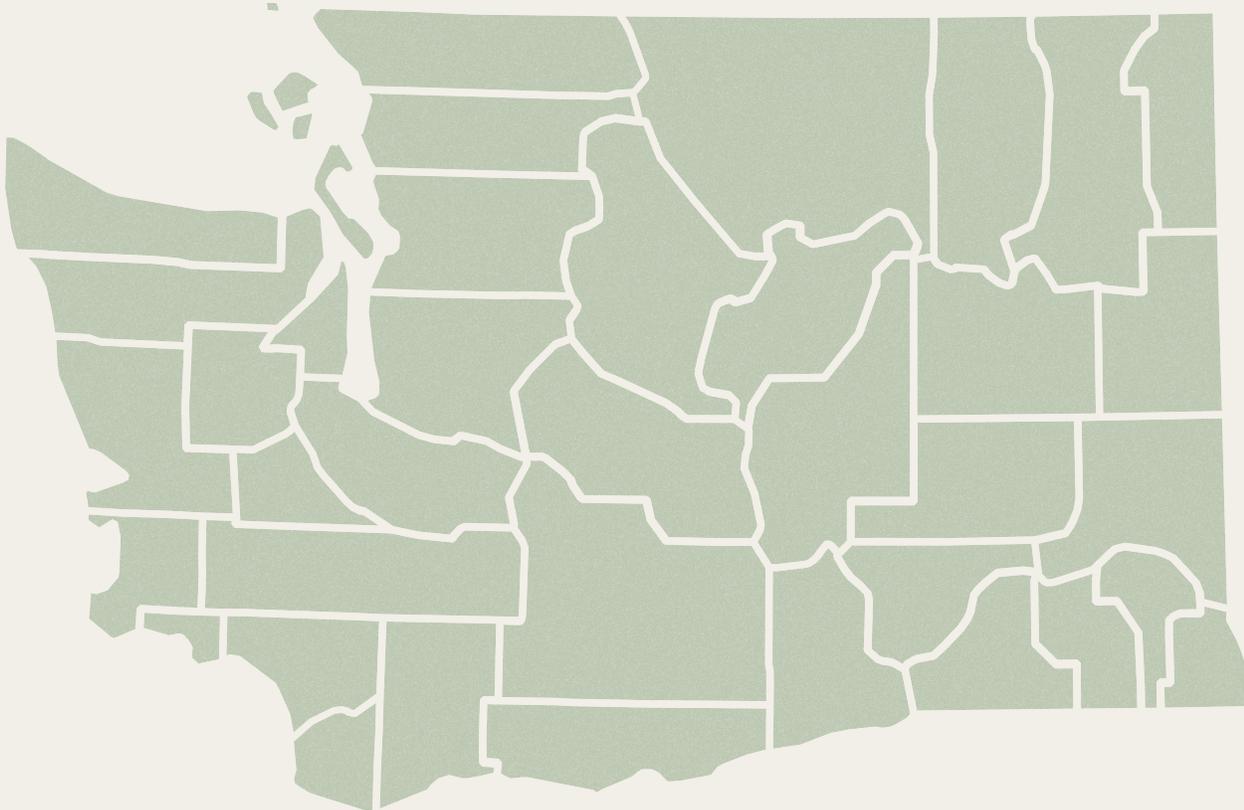
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WASHINGTON
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