



WASHINGTON
STATE ASSOCIATION
of **COUNTIES**

SEPTEMBER 2025

2025

Courthouse Briefing Document

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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.





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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

2024-25

WSAC Board of Directors



PRESIDENT
Rob Coffman
Lincoln County



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Mark Ozias
Clallam County



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Gunner Fulmer
Walla Walla County



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Lisa Janicki
Skagit 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.

2024-25 ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed amicus filing requests and authorized participation
- Authorized filings and appeals of pending litigation
- Monitored DCYF, Civil Conversion and Indigent Defense Litigation
- Appointments/Nominations to Statewide Boards and Commissions
- Completed WSAC Bylaws review and update process
- Discussing and working on membership issues and challenges
- Program review and oversight
- Review 2024 Audit and Financials
- Appoint WSAC Federal Issues and Relations Committee
- Review and recommend Annual Budget and Program Expenditures, Dues, and Assessments
- Ongoing monitoring of WSAC financial health
- Updates and additions to WSAC Comprehensive Policy Manual
- Review County Leaders Conference Timeframe
- Selection of WSAC Executive Director

2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- Wednesday, February 5, 2025, Thurston County
- Thursday, May 8, 2025, King County
- Thursday, September 18, 2025, Kittitas County
- Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Spokane County

BOARD MEMBERS

Will McKay	Benton County
Matt Little	Clark County
Dan Sutton	Douglas County
Katie Walters	Kitsap County
Sean Swope	Lewis County
Sharon Trask	Mason County
Jani Hitchen	Pierce County
Ryan Mello	Pierce County
Jaime Smith	Pierce County
Jane Fuller	San Juan County
Megan Dunn	Snohomish County
Dave Somers	Snohomish County
Annika Vaughn	Snohomish County
Lacey Harper	Snohomish County
Mary Kunev	Spokane County
Mark Burrows	Stevens County
Carolina Mejia	Thurston County
Tye Menser	Thurston County
Satpal Sidhu	Whatcom County
Art Swannack	Whitman County
LaDon Linde	Yakima County
Amanda McKinney	Yakima County

ALTERNATES

Chris Seubert	Asotin County
Michael Alvarez	Benton County
Glen Yung	Clark County
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
Janet St. Clair	Island County
Christine Rolfes	Kitsap County
Scott Hutsell	Lincoln County
Robyn Denson	Pierce County
Jared Mead	Snohomish County
Al French	Spokane County
Kaylee Galloway	Whatcom County

Letter from

Executive Director Derek Young & President Rob Coffman



Each Courthouse Briefing is an opportunity for the leadership of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to travel throughout the State, engaging WSAC members and other county officials on unique issues in your counties and speaking to the issues, challenges, and programs delivered by WSAC.

After a year serving as Interim Executive Director and a full national search, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Derek Young to continue serving as WSAC Executive Director. We're excited to discuss the Association's challenges, potential solutions, and opportunities for the future, as well as provide an update and overview of WSAC programs, services, and accomplishments.

As with previous courthouse briefings, we will listen carefully to the thoughts of WSAC members, county officials, and staff. Your insights are crucial in shaping the future of our Association and the issues most important to your ability to govern, lead, and manage your county.

During our Courthouse Briefings we will share important and timely updates and information, including:

- Association Budget and Finance
- 2025 Legislative Outcomes
- Upcoming Legislative and Policy Development
- Federal Issues and Priorities
- Solution Center
- The WSAC "HUB"
- Litigation Activities
- And... more

We are both pleased to serve you in our respective roles at the Association. If you would like to talk about the Association or ideas on improving our organization to meet the needs of all counties throughout Washington State, we are here to listen. Please do not hesitate to reach out to either or both of us.

We know that we are at our best when all 39 counties are engaged members of WSAC and are committed to continuing to work with each of you to achieve that.

Handwritten signature of Rob Coffman in black ink.

President
Rob Coffman

Handwritten signature of Derek Young in black ink.

Executive Director
Derek Young

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). 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 had until December 31st, 2024 to obligate funds and must spend all SLFRFs by December 31st, 2026.

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:

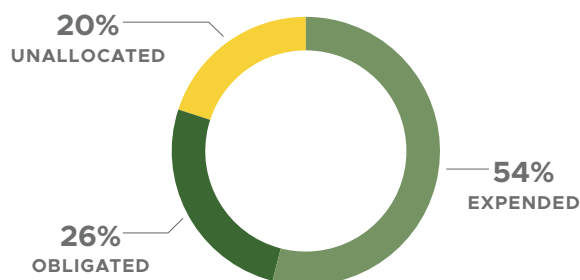
- Vulnerable populations including veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and the homeless.
- Small businesses
- Behavioral health providers
- Childcare providers
- Other Non-profit organizations serving vulnerable people

Counties are now working to apply the remainder of the funds 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

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 2023, 80% of SLFRFs received by counties have been obligated and 53% have been expended. 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.

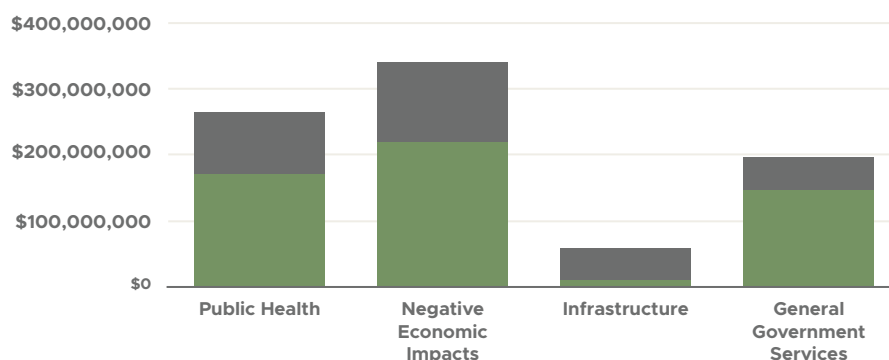


Counties are concerned about the recent changes to the definition of obligation in the Obligation Interim Final Rule published by Treasury in November, 2023. Most Counties in Washington are on track to obligate and spend their funds prior to the 2024 and 2026 deadlines. However, a 2-year deadline extension would provide flexibility for broadband projects and other large capital projects that take more time to implement.

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.

SLFRF Allocation and Spending by Category

■ EXPENDED
■ ALLOCATED



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 Lockling
Director, Operations and Administration

Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe
Operations and Support Assistant

Tanya Naylor
Bookkeeper / Office Coordinator

2024 Action Items

- **Update WSAC Bylaws & Policy Manual** — Work continues on reviewing the bylaws through the Bylaws Committee, which started in 2023. This work is critical as we look to implement changes that bring value and equity across all counties. We will review and make corresponding updates to the Comprehensive Policy Manual as needed.
- **Update WSAC Financial Policies & Procedures** — We will update the Comprehensive Policy Manual to ensure compliance with updated laws and regulations and to correlate it with changes made to the WSAC Bylaws
- **Implement Contract and Grant Tracking System** — With the increased use of contracts and state grants, there is a growing need to utilize technology to track and manage contracts and contract budgets more effectively.
- **IT Systems and File Management** — We are working with a new IT company to manage our system. We will begin transitioning to a new file-sharing system and implementing other ways to streamline our technology to adapt to the needs of a more remote work environment.



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



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



Provides financial services for **6 associations**

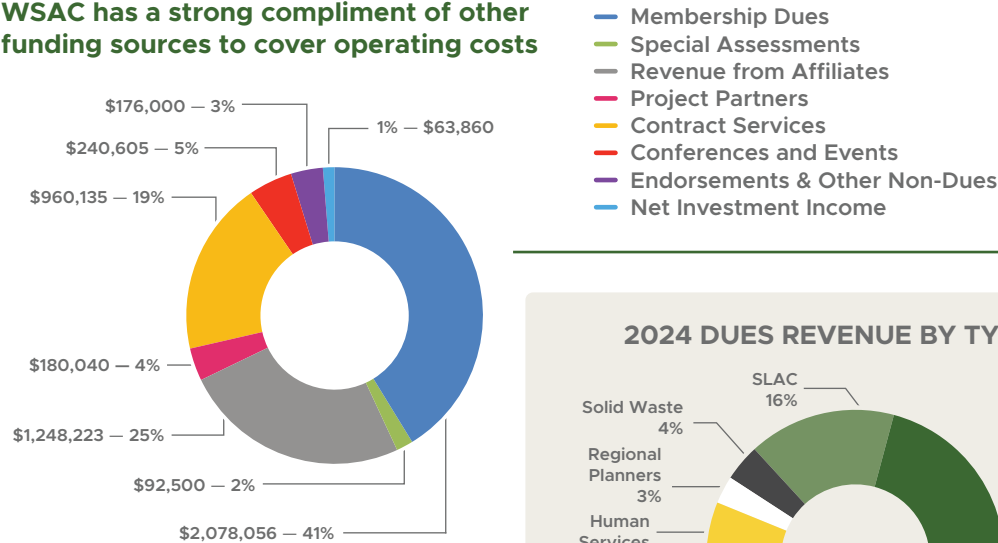
By The Numbers

2024 Summary Financials

WHERE WSAC REVENUES COME FROM

2024 Total Revenue — \$5,040,053

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



DUES AS % OF REVENUE

2016	49%
2017	43%
2018	54%
2019	56%
2020	54%
2021	54%
2022	48%
2023	49%
2024	41%

\$164,644 ▼

DECREASE IN NET INCOME FROM 2023

\$86,658 ▲

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM 2023

74% ▲

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS SINCE 2018

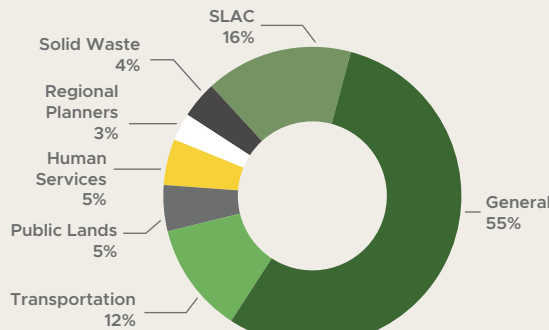
\$1,253,334

SPECIAL FUND CASH BALANCE

\$635,905

SLAC FUND CASH BALANCE

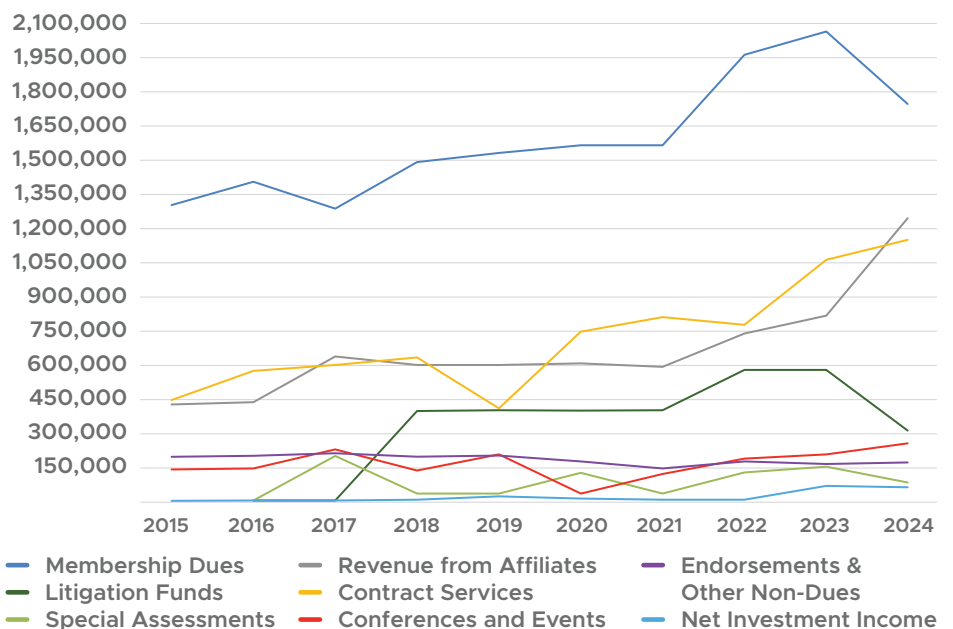
2024 DUES REVENUE BY TYPE



WSAC collects dues to support 7 main programs.

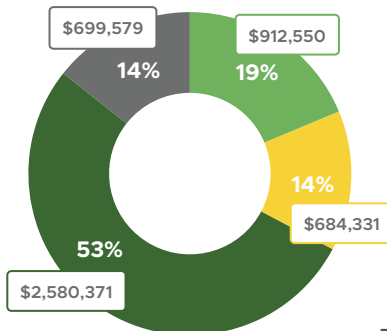
Also manages 5 state grants and 5 county projects.

10 YEAR REVENUE TRENDS



WHERE SPENDING OCCURS

2024 Total Expenditure — \$4,876,831



86% of 2024 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

6 FTE – Member Services, Communication, Marketing

3 FTE – Administrative, Financial, Logistics

6 Contracted Professionals



LITIGATION

Tackling the legal issues most important to you

Legal Defense Consultations:
\$24,390 Civil Conversion
\$178,264 Indigent Defense
\$35,431 Juvenile Rehabilitation



COMMUNICATION

Marketing the stories and messages that matter

\$14k media, marketing, and brand awareness
\$40k investment in new Association Management Software
\$15k Business Partner Revenue



CONFERENCE

Training & educating county leaders

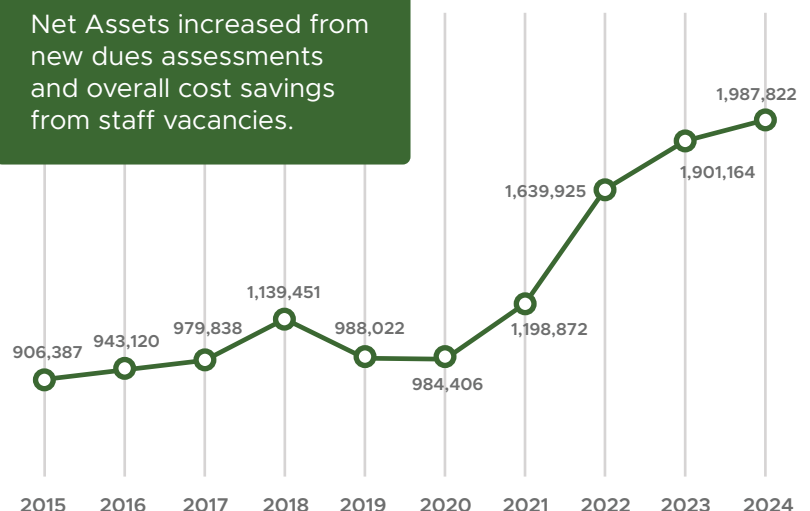
10 in-person conferences supporting 5 associations
Nearly 800 attendees across all conferences
\$96k revenue from sponsors and vendors for County Leaders

NET INCOME & CASH RESERVES

Year	Net Income	Cash
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
2023	321,018	1,378,891
2024	156,374	1,424,767

NET ASSET CHANGES

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



2024 Combined Dues

County	General Dues	Transportation Dues	Public Lands Dues	Human Svcs Dues	County Planning Assessment	Solid Waste Assessment	SLAC Dues	Total Dues
Adams	8,593	2,652	100	656	461	629	3,358	16,449
Asotin	8,839	2,696	292	677	476	648	3,417	17,045
Benton	41,522	8,627	508	3,463	2,399	3,182	11,225	70,926
Chelan	18,812	4,506	4,673	1,527	1,063	1,421	5,800	37,802
Clallam	18,232	4,401	7,364	1,478	1,029	1,376	5,661	39,541
Clark	94,380	18,218	2,497	7,968	5,510	7,281	23,854	159,709
Columbia	3,919	2,121	554	407	289	402	2,660	10,353
Cowlitz	24,151	5,475	994	1,982	1,377	1,835	7,075	42,889
Douglas	12,542	3,368	171	993	694	935	4,302	23,005
Ferry	4,487	2,224	1,579	455	323	446	2,796	12,311
Franklin	22,134	5,109	331	1,810	1,258	1,679	6,593	38,914
Garfield	3,640	2,071	391	383	273	380	2,593	9,731
Grant	22,507	5,177	1,245	1,842	1,280	1,708	6,683	40,441
Grays Harbor	18,049	4,368	2,618	1,462	1,018	1,362	5,618	34,495
Island	19,939	4,711	100	1,623	1,129	1,508	6,069	35,080
Jefferson	10,665	3,028	4,339	833	583	789	3,853	24,090
King								
Kitsap	52,995	10,709	732	4,441	3,075	4,072	13,967	89,989
Kittitas	13,016	3,454	2,444	1,033	722	972	4,415	26,056
Klickitat	8,940	2,715	638	686	482	656	3,441	17,558
Lewis	19,249	4,585	9,882	1,564	1,089	1,455	5,904	43,728
Lincoln	5,135	2,342	276	511	361	496	2,950	12,071
Mason	16,355	4,060	4,708	1,318	918	1,230	5,213	33,802
Okanogan	12,287	3,322	5,187	971	679	915	4,241	27,603
Pacific	9,029	2,731	2,447	693	487	662	3,463	19,513
Pend Oreille	5,576	2,422	1,911	548	387	530	3,056	14,430
Pierce	165,373	31,099	1,990	14,019	9,689	12,786	40,815	275,770
San Juan	8,110	2,564	100	615	433	591	3,243	15,656
Skagit	27,371	6,059	11,738	2,257	1,567	2,085	7,845	58,920
Skamania	5,284	2,369	5,278	523	370	508	2,986	17,317
Snohomish	150,714	28,439	8,959	12,769	8,826	11,649	37,313	258,669
Spokane	98,990	19,054	100	8,361	5,782	7,638	24,955	164,881
Stevens	13,025	3,456	1,233	1,034	722	972	4,417	24,859
Thurston	56,418	11,330	5,663	4,732	3,276	4,337	14,784	100,541
Wahkiakum	4,021	2,140	2,045	416	295	410	2,684	12,011
Walla Walla	15,694	3,940	100	1,261	879	1,179	5,055	28,109
Whatcom	44,962	9,251	5,473	3,756	2,602	3,449	12,047	81,540
Whitman	13,152	3,479	100	1,045	730	982	4,448	23,935
Yakima	49,267	10,032	2,682	4,123	2,855	3,783	13,076	85,817
TOTALS	1,127,371	248,305	101,443	94,236	65,390	86,937	321,875	2,045,558

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.

2025 Action Items

- **Legislative Session** — Work with the state legislature to pass legislation supporting WSAC’s 2025-27 Legislative Priorities, including county funding, public defense, behavioral health, housing, rural county coroners, clean energy liability, and transportation. Educate lawmakers on the role of county governments.
- **Legislative Advocacy** — Monitor legislative and state budget proposals for county interests and opportunities.
- **Ongoing Advocacy & Professional Development** — Work with state agencies, members, and other stakeholders in analyzing unresolved and emerging county government issues and concerns and implementing legislation passed in 2025. Continue to develop and invest in professional development opportunities for members and staff.

A New Biennium

This year marked the start of a new biennial legislative session. The 105-day “long” session included the adoption of new state budgets and several key policy proposals.

Like in recent sessions, the Democrats held the legislative majority in both houses. WSAC worked to introduce twenty separate bills as part of our strategy for addressing our 2025-27 Legislative Priorities. We successfully passed our priorities for behavioral health and clean energy liability, and one housing priority bill.

State Budgets

This session included adopting new State Operating, Capital, and Transportation Budgets. The legislature faced a significant challenge with an estimated \$9-12 billion revenue shortfall. That estimate increased to \$16 billion later in the session. Ultimately, the legislature adopted a new \$77 billion State Operating Budget, an increase of \$7 billion over the previous budget. It included new revenue from various sources, including increased B&O taxes, removing existing sales tax exemptions on services, and new sales taxes on certain products.

A New Governor

For the first time in twelve years, a new Governor, Bob Ferguson, was sworn in at the beginning of the session. Governor Ferguson wasted no time making his intentions to address the state’s financial and policy issues clear. In his inaugural speech, he encouraged fiscal restraint that relied more on cutting expenses rather than pursuing significant new revenue to solve the projected revenue deficits.

TEAM MEMBERS

Paul Jewell
Government Relations
Director

Jaime Bodden
Managing Director,
WSALPHO

Axel Swanson
Managing Director,
WSACE

Kelsey Hulse
Policy Consultant

Brad Banks
Policy Consultant

Brianna Steere
FPHS Policy Advisor

Chris Goodwin
FPHS Policy Advisor

Travis Dutton
Policy Coordinator

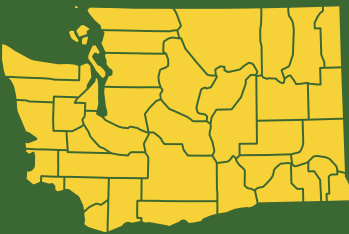
Curtis Steinhauer
Policy Coordinator

Legislative Steering Committee

The Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) is responsible for preparing and recommending a legislative agenda. 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.

2025 Action Items

- LSC Meetings** — Meet in person/hybrid every other week during the legislative session to review and take positions on critical legislation affecting counties.
- County Priority Updates** — Engage with leaders from state agencies and the legislature to keep them apprised of county priorities.
- Legislative Agenda** — Review and update, if necessary, WSAC’s 2025-27 Legislative Priorities agenda.
- Policy Statement Update** — Review and update WSAC’s Statement of Policy and Core Principles document.



38 Counties Involved

Carolina Mejia, Co-Chair
Thurston County Commissioner

Kevin Overbay, Co-Chair
Chelan County Commissioner

WSAC’s 2025-27 Legislative Priorities Agenda

The LSC utilized the new process it adopted in 2024 to develop a robust legislative priorities agenda, including seven goals. WSAC successfully utilized a form of proportional voting for the first time during the development process. The new legislative priorities agenda resulted in introducing twenty WSAC priority bills during the legislative session, three of which were passed. The LSC and policy team members were successful in accomplishing two of the seven goals included in the priorities and partially completing three others.

LEGISLATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE (LSC) ROSTER

Dan Blankenship Adams County	Richard Dahl Cowlitz County	Heidi Eisenhour Jefferson County	Jon Neal Okanogan County	Jaime Smith Pierce County Executive (Alternate)	Annika Vaughn Snohomish County Executive (Alternate)	Gunner Fulmer Walla Walla County
Chris Seubert Asotin County	Dan Sutton Douglas County	Christine Rolfes Kitsap County	Lisa Olsen Pacific County	Jane Fuller San Juan County	Al French Spokane County	Kayle Galloway Whatcom County
Michael Alvarez Benton County	Zack Trudell Ferry County	Katie Walters Kitsap County (Alternate)	Jerry Doyle Pacific County (Alternate)	Lisa Janicki Skagit County	Mark Burrows Stevens County	Barry Buchanan Whatcom County (Alternate)
Kevin Overbay Chelan County	Stephen Bauman Franklin County	Laura Osiadacz Kittitas County	John Gentle Pend Oreille County	Asa Leckie Skamania County	Carolina Mejia Thurston County	Satpal Sidhu Whatcom County Executive
Mark Ozias Clallam County	Jim Nelson Garfield County	Lori Zoller Klickitat County	Robyn Denson Pierce County	Megan Dunn Snohomish County	Wayne Fournier Thurston County (Alternate)	Art Swannack Whitman County
Michelle Belkot Clark County	Kevin Burgess Grant County	Sean Swope Lewis County	Jani Hitchen Pierce County (Alternate)	Dave Somers Snohomish County Executive	Lee Tischer Wahkiakum County	Amanda McKinney Yakima County
Glen Yung Clark County (Alternate)	Georgia Miller Grays Harbor County	Scott Hutsell Lincoln County	Ryan Mello Pierce County Executive			
Marty Hall Columbia County	Jill Johnson Island County	Sharon Trask Mason County				

County Legislative Priorities

To prepare for the 2025 legislative session, the Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) spent considerable time developing and implementing a new system for crafting WSAC's 2025-27 Legislative Agenda. The new method was designed to ensure a balanced legislative agenda that considers issues important to larger, more populated counties (urban) and smaller, less-populous counties (rural) equally. In November, the LSC adopted an extremely ambitious legislative agenda featuring 7 distinct priorities.



Fiscal Sustainability

The Challenge – Counties are the least financially-diversified governments in the state. Property tax, with its limited growth potential, is our main revenue source.

The Fix – Support the following strategies to improve county fiscal health: 1. Revise the 1% annual property tax growth limit to 3%; 2. Implement a local graduated REET; 3. Implement a county utility tax; and 4. Allocate a greater share of cannabis revenue to local governments.

OUTCOMES

HB 2049/SB 5812 proposed, among other things, to replace the 1% annual property tax growth limit with the rate of inflation plus the county population growth rate, not to exceed 3%.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

HB 1704 and **SB 5547** both proposed new, albeit different, levels of increased funding appropriations of state cannabis sales tax revenue for local governments.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

HB 2027 would have, among other things, implemented a new Real Estate Excise Tax policy for counties. The new policy would have implemented higher tax rates for property sales over \$1.5 million and lower tax rates for property sales under \$500,000.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

HB 1702 proposed a new utility tax authority for counties up to 3%.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**



Public Defense Reform

The Challenge – The state must provide adequate funding to meet existing and future requirements for trial court public defense. Counties cannot continue to shoulder the vast majority of this burden alone.

The Fix – Provide state funding sufficient to ensure counties can meet the constitutional right to effective access to justice through effective legal representation.

OUTCOME

HB 1592/SB 5404 would have made the state and county each responsible for 50% of the current costs for public defense services. The state would be responsible for all future cost increases. Counties could also choose to have the state take over public defense services.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**



County Transportation System Viability

The Challenge – Counties are responsible for nearly half of our state’s roads and bridges, but the system in place for providing resources to maintain them is inadequate.

The Fix – Support the following strategies: 1. Revise the 1% the annual property tax growth rate limit to 3%; 2. Implement a Road Usage Charge (RUC) program to replace the gas tax with requirements that counties support; and 3. Provide new grant authority and funding for the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and Reducing Rural Roadway Departures Program.

OUTCOMES

HB 2049/SB 5812 proposed, among other things, to replace the 1% annual property tax growth limit with the rate of inflation plus the county population growth rate, not to exceed 3%.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

HB 1921/SB 5726 would have established a process for phasing in a RUC program. The bill created the RUC Highway Account and allocated revenue to local jurisdictions in accordance with gas tax distributions to be used for preservation and maintenance.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

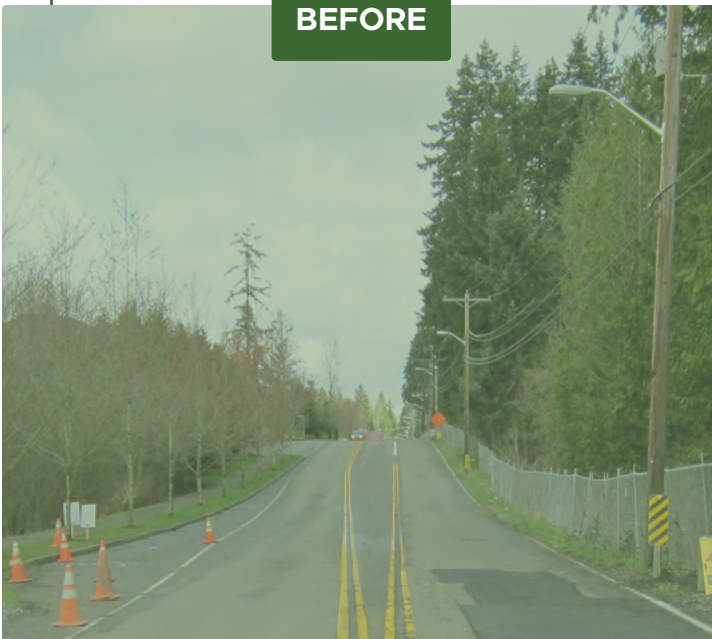
HB 1098/SB 5544 would have established a new grant program for local county access roads. The legislation was aligned with a top recommendation from the Grant Effectiveness Study done by CRAB last year.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

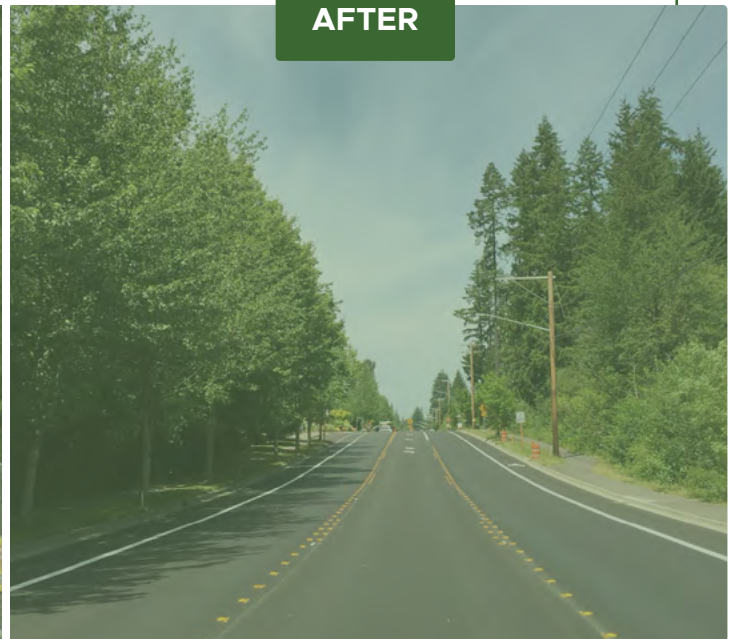
Outcome: **FAILED**

(However, the program is established in the Transportation Budget)

BEFORE



AFTER



County Legislative Priorities (Continued)



Clean Energy Project Benefits

The Challenge – When the Energy Facility Siting Evaluation Council (EFSEC) issues a siting approval for a clean energy project and construction or operation begins, they prefer to work with local government service providers for help with inspections, reviews, and other technical tasks. However, local governments may face liability risks from violating their own development codes if the projects EFSEC oversees don't conform to local land use regulations.

The Fix – Provide local government liability protection when providing services during the construction and operational phases of EFSEC-approved projects.

OUTCOMES

SB 5317 amends state law to afford local governments liability protections from appeals and claims related to state law and local development code violations when cooperating with EFSEC to provide services after the Governor approves siting certification.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **PASSED**



Improving Behavioral Health

The Challenge – We must address systemic gaps and barriers that prevent people from accessing the services they need and make Medicaid work for community behavioral healthcare. Current Medicaid managed care policy defining adequate networks of behavioral healthcare does not recognize the full range and scope of behavioral health capacity needs.

The Fix – Improve contractual standards through Medicaid repurchase.

OUTCOMES

E2SHB 1813 concerned the repurchase of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for Medicaid enrollees. It requires the Health Care Authority (Authority) to adjust Medicaid rates to reflect increases and decreases in service facilities and capacity. It also requires the Authority's preparations for the repurchase of Medicaid managed care contracts to consider methodologies for measuring network access and adequacy, as well as contract amendments for reduce administrative burdens for health care providers. The Authority must direct managed care organizations to establish, continue, or expand delegation arrangements with behavioral health administrative services organizations for crisis services.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **PASSED**



County Housing Strategies

The Challenge – Many of the homes our state needs to improve housing access and affordability will not be built in cities. In our state, 34% of residents live in unincorporated areas. However, counties have limited tools to address the housing crisis.

The Fix – Support the following strategies: 1. Authorize detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs) outside urban areas; 2. Authorize counties to increase density in appropriate areas for middle housing options; 3. Expand access to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program; 4. Invest state funding in developing infrastructure that supports housing development; and 5. Provide funding for counties to offer pre-designed and approved housing plans.

OUTCOMES

HB 1345/SB 5470 would have authorized detached ADUs outside of urban growth areas (UGA) on all residential lots with certain requirements.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

ESB 5471 authorizes counties to increase density for residential development in all UGAs and LAMIRDs to support middle housing development without the risk of appeals, with certain requirements.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **PASSED**

HB 1206/SB 5679 would have expanded the MFTE program to all GMA-planning counties for new multi-family developments within UGAs.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**

Capital Budget Proviso would have appropriated \$250,000 for WSAC to work with South Puget Sound Community College to develop pre-approved housing plans for small-scale single-family homes, duplexes, and ADUs in 4 counties as a pilot program.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**



Support Rural County Coroners

The Challenge – In 2021, the legislature passed HB 1326, requiring counties with populations under 40,000 to have an independent coroner by 2025. This mandate impacts 13 rural counties where cost is a major obstacle.

The Fix – Provide state funding support to the impacted counties.

OUTCOMES

SB 5089 would have provided 6 years of funding support to the 13 rural counties to allow them time to adjust.

WSAC Position: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **FAILED**



New County Revenue and Cost Savings

Despite WSAC's revenue proposals failing to pass, the legislature did include substantial local government funding benefits in its revenue bills and different portions of the State Operating and Transportation Budgets. WSAC has been working to update the annual 1% growth limit on local property tax revenue for many years. Our proposal this year, to change the limit to the rate of inflation plus the rate of population growth (HB 2049/SB 5812), received strong support in both the House and Senate for the first time. However, it ultimately failed after Governor Ferguson signaled his opposition.

ESHB 2015 authorizes a new .1% sales tax authority for local governments. With councilmanic approval until June 30, 2028, or with a majority approval of voters, counties can collect an additional .1% on all retail sales for criminal justice purposes. The bill also includes a grant program for local governments to hire, retain, and train law enforcement officers, peer counselors, and behavioral health personnel working in co-response to increase community policing and public safety. The legislature appropriated \$100 million for the grant program.

ESSB 5801 includes permanent new funding for counties from the gas tax increase (\$9.661 million for the 25-27 biennium), plus additional general fund revenue from filing fee increases (approximately \$3.507 million for the 25-27 biennium).

ESSB 5357 sets the base unfunded actuarial liability rates for the PERS 1 pension program to zero through fiscal year 2029. Removing this obligation saves local governments (including counties) a total of \$261.1 million in the 25-27 biennium.

ESSB 5814 removes the exemptions from retail sales taxes on select services and certain nicotine products. Counties will collect and retain the local portion of sales taxes.



COUNTY CONNECTION

The County Connection is the official podcast of the Washington State Association of Counties, where we dive into the legislative issues of the day. For more in-depth discussion on what's happening in Olympia during the session, check out our library of discussions on everything from budgets to public safety, infrastructure to housing, and more.

When the session is over, listen for great discussions about innovative programs counties are implementing across the state for law enforcement, criminal diversion, housing, public health, water resource management, environmental programs, and more.

Stay informed,
stay engaged, and
subscribe today!



 **Listen Now**

WSAC Programs

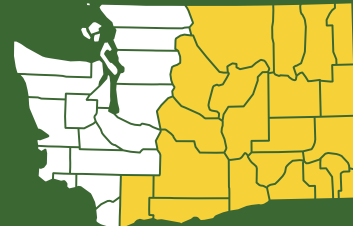
Columbia River Caucus

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.

2024-25 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.
- Conduct a field tour in the fall for caucus members of Columbia River Basin water supply projects.
- 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

Jo Gilchrist, Chair

Lincoln County
Commissioner

Paul Jewell

Government Relations
Director

Travis Dutton

Policy Coordinator

Ben Floyd

Contract Facilitator, White
Bluffs Consulting

Lara Floyd

Contract Facilitator, White
Bluffs Consulting

WSAC Programs

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.



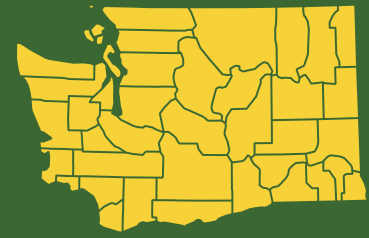
2024-25 ACTIVITIES

- 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 and other salmon recovery related plans.
- Monitored and reported on Puget Sound Partnership efforts that involved county policy interests to WSAC policy staff and the Counties Coastal Caucus including the 2022-2026 Action Agenda items such as the RFP opportunities provided through the Habitat, Shellfish, and Stormwater Initiative Leads and engaging Congressional leaders with Puget Sound Day on the hill (virtual).
- Planned and coordinated the annual meeting for the WSAC Leaders Conference to include a briefing on legislative priorities related to salmon recovery and the Puget Sound and Coastal Waters. The agenda also included state agency briefings on funding opportunities and grant application tools that advance salmon recovery in the state.
- 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.
- Continue to represent Counties at the Salmon Recovery Plan Addendum - Implementation Plan workshops

WSAC Programs

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.



39 Counties
Involved

Sharon Trask, Chair

Mason County
Commissioner

Paul Jewell

Government Relations
Director

Travis Dutton

Policy Coordinator

Court Stanley

Program Consultant

Mark Meleason

Program Consultant

2024-25 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.
- Successfully advocated for additional funding to support encumbered lands replacement purchases and conservation of older forests in willing counties.
- Convened a workgroup of encumbered lands counties to develop recommendations for distributing benefits among counties utilizing land pooling. The WSAC Board of Directors adopted recommendations in February 2025 in Resolution 2025-08.
- Incorporated additional Timber 101 presentations into quarterly caucus meetings and recorded them to add to WSAC's library of training videos.
- Recruited and submitted to the Governor three applicants for appointment to the Forest Practices Board.

Federal Priorities

LEARN MORE
www.wsac.org/advocacy

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 2024 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) 2024, Washington's counties (37 of 39) received \$29.7 million in PILT.

Secure Rural Schools (SRS) – Permanent reauthorization and funding of the SRS program is important to Washington State counties. In FFY22, Washington's counties (27 of 39) received \$17.3 million in SRS funding. We ask Congress to:

- 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.

County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) – WSAC desires to have Veteran Service Officers serving all 39 counties as many veterans are not always aware of the benefits available to them. With the high presence of active and retired military personnel, WSAC supports the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (H.R. 984/S.106), to authorize federal funding to expand and strengthen County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs).

Behavioral Health and Opioids – According to the Washington's Department of Health, 2,646 people died of a drug overdose (of which 1,803 were synthetic opioids) in 2022. In 2020 Washington State had 1,731 drug related deaths (of which 672 were synthetic opioids). This is in addition to over 1,200 suicides. It is important to act swiftly in addressing these national emergencies by providing additional resources and taking the steps outlined below. We recognizing that government cannot tackle this issue alone, county leaders are also calling upon private sector and non-governmental partners, including, but not limited to, manufacturers, pharmacies, and health care providers to be part of the solution.

- Support the Local 9-8-8 Response Act
- Ongoing Support for Comprehensive State and Local Efforts
- Preventing & Identifying Addiction
- Expanding Access to Treatment & Recovery
- Enhancing Support for Law Enforcement
- Strengthen Interstate Collaboration to Stop Drugs Entering Washington State

2025 FEDERAL ISSUES AND RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rob Coffman, Chair
Commissioner
Lincoln County

Kevin Overbay
Commissioner
Chelan County

Sharon Trask
Commissioner
Mason County

Mary Kuney
Commissioner
Spokane County

Katie Walters
Commissioner
Kitsap County

Derek Young
Executive Director

Amanda McKinney
Commissioner
Yakima County

Ron Wesen
Commissioner
Skagit County

Heidi Eisenhour
Commissioner
Jefferson County

Lisa Janicki
Commissioner
Skagit County

Megan Dunn
Councilmember
Snohomish County

Sean Swope
Commissioner
Lewis County

Asa Leckie
Commissioner
Skamania County

Jani Hitchen
Councilmember
Pierce County

Carolina Mejia
Commissioner
Thurston County

Gunner Fulmer
Commissioner
Walla Walla County

Public Land Payments

County	SRS/Fed FY 2022	PILT/Fed FY 2023	Dept of Energy FY 2022	Refuge (RRSA) Federal FY22	DFW PILT 2023	DNR PILT CY 2022	DNR/Timber 6Yr Annual Avg	Total	% of Total Revenue
Adams	-	66,244	-	6,124	3,455	932	-	76,756	0.07%
Asotin	70,299	192,437	-	494	49,870	-	-	313,100	0.28%
Benton	-	200,789	1,020,811	6,404	-	-	-	545,010	0.48%
Chelan	1,296,418	3,648,663	-	11,219	51,107	9,646	-	5,017,053	4.44%
Clallam	923,812	1,236,499	-	7,790	-	5,747	5,732,589	7,906,437	7.00%
Clark	3,409	2,535	-	28,830	-	2,330	2,644,127	2,681,231	2.38%
Columbia	128,482	445,105	-	689	20,713	-	-	594,989	0.53%
Cowlitz	129,532	29,007	-	1,675	-	1,216	906,135	1,067,565	0.95%
Douglas	2	183,951	-	-	-	153	-	184,106	0.16%
Ferry	760,857	898,561	-	-	36,048	-	-	1,695,466	1.50%
Franklin	-	190,729	188,268	84	-	204	-	355,252	0.31%
Garfield	118,808	280,891	-	-	19,842	-	-	419,541	0.37%
Grant	-	883,470	604,063	5,897	137,747	276	-	1,337,085	1.18%
Grays Harbor	374,357	302,487	-	4,230	75,955	70,122	1,983,440	2,810,592	2.49%
Island	-	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	2,364	0.00%
Jefferson	1,040,181	1,769,021	-	26,268	-	89,059	1,733,526	4,658,055	4.13%
King	205,151	1,017,602	-	-	-	355,862	2,738,183	4,316,799	3.82%
Kitsap	-	-	-	-	-	61,296	724,436	785,732	0.70%
Kittitas	638,272	1,291,922	-	-	451,954	241,259	-	2,623,406	2.32%
Klickitat	52,722	125,208	-	42,200	81,767	55,118	328,458	685,473	0.61%
Lewis	1,743,388	725,775	-	235	-	1,892	8,138,417	10,609,707	9.40%
Lincoln	-	281,957	-	-	13,642	325	-	295,924	0.26%
Mason	327,597	350,317	-	-	-	21,112	4,355,297	5,054,323	4.48%
Okanogan	1,845,365	3,142,410	-	1,052	501,207	79,230	-	5,569,264	4.93%
Pacific	-	8,143	-	67,863	-	27,940	2,523,517	2,627,463	2.33%
Pend Oreille	725,289	1,306,054	-	409	19,547	-	-	2,051,300	1.82%
Pierce	227,829	950,933	-	1,730	-	789	954,990	2,136,271	1.89%
San Juan	-	7,779	-	-	-	21,667	-	29,446	0.03%
Skagit	484,204	1,429,997	-	-	-	241,044	10,446,955	12,602,200	11.16%
Skamania	2,850,184	378,510	-	8,115	-	105,158	2,324,142	5,666,109	5.02%
Snohomish	627,474	1,663,329	-	-	-	256,146	7,071,593	9,618,542	8.52%
Spokane	-	6,482	-	58,468	-	20,670	-	85,620	0.08%
Stevens	343,604	706,798	-	163,267	-	3,034	107,050	1,323,753	1.17%
Thurston	1,116	1,355	-	20,232	-	134,727	5,922,188	6,079,618	5.39%
Wahkiakum	-	-	-	15,077	-	6,749	2,173,900	2,195,726	1.95%
Walla Walla	3,214	34,165	-	5,216	-	-	-	42,595	0.04%
Whatcom	987,291	2,254,709	-	-	-	5,370	2,628,987	5,876,356	5.21%
Whitman	-	67,294	-	-	-	153	-	67,447	0.06%
Yakima	1,394,460	1,044,486	-	7,130	410,437	22,724	-	2,879,238	2.55%
Totals:	17,303,316	27,127,978	1,813,142	490,698	1,873,292	1,841,953	63,437,930	112,886,913.88	100.00%

Litigation & Amicus Briefs

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

Juvenile Justice

On July 5, 2024, without prior notice, DCYF stated its intention to stop complying with its statutory obligation to admit juvenile offenders into Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities "effective [that day]." WSAC and co-plaintiff counties filed a motion for preliminary injunction in King County Superior Court on July 31, 2024, asking the court to require DCYF to comply with its statutory obligations.

On August 8, 2024, an agreed order was filed in which DCYF agreed to initiate the admission of juvenile offenders to DCYF facilities on or by August 9, 2024, provide transportation for such offenders. DCYF also agreed to provide advance notice of at least ten judicial days to WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties of any future restrictions on admissions.

Public 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 filed its lawsuit on September 8, 2023. The State subsequently filed a motion to dismiss based on the premise that counties do not have legal standing to bring the suit. Superior Court Judge Allyson Zipp found in favor of the State and dismissed the lawsuit. WSAC appealed, and Division II of the Court of Appeals overturned the decision. The State has petitioned the State Supreme Court for review.

Civil Conversion

Following repeated violations of court orders by the State, a coalition of 28 counties (Coalition) and WSAC filed a lawsuit in Pierce County Superior Court against DSHS (Pierce County et. al. v. DSHS et. al., No. 3.23-cv-5775) on August 23, 2023, over DSHS's decision to stop providing initial evaluation and subsequent treatment for patients needing behavioral health support when exiting the criminal legal system. The Coalition also filed a motion for preliminary injunction to compel DSHS's immediate compliance with both state law and court orders. DSHS asserted it was not obligated to evaluate or treat patients whose criminal charges have been dismissed. After some legal maneuvering and the case was ultimately brought in front of Pierce County Superior Court Judge Michael Schwartz on October 6, 2023, who granted the Coalition's motion for a preliminary injunction. This order required DSHS to immediately perform its statutory obligation to evaluate all new conversion patients. The court further enjoined DSHS from releasing existing conversion patients without providing statutorily sufficient notification. The Coalition and the State have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to settle the case.

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
- Attorney Client Privilege

TIRED OF KEYS?



SCAN ME FOR
AFFORDABLE
OPTIONS



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

2024 Action Items

- **County Connection Podcasts** – 41 episodes were produced during and right after the Legislative Session, totally well over 1,700 downloads across the state/county/world. During the interim, the podcast will turn its focus on content that will serve our members in a more long-term capacity with education and interviews that can be referenced throughout the coming years.
- **County Development Institute of Washington** – The County Development Institute’s on-demand training library continues to grow. Throughout 2024 we added a 7-Part Housing series, along with a 5-Part Water training, 2-Part Planning, and a 3-Part Timber training series.
- **County Leaders Conference** – This year’s Annual Conference theme is “Voices of Impact.” This year CLC will be hosted in Spokane County, Spokane, WA November 18th – 20th. Look for registrations to open this summer!
- **Projects of Impact** – This year we are recognizing outstanding county government projects and the leadership and staff who engage in positive action to improve their local area. The Projects of Impact awards will be determined in November and announced later that November at the County Leaders Conference Awards Luncheon. If you’re interested and want to learn more about this opportunity, visit wsac.org/projects-of-impact.

2024-25 Engagement

2024 Meetings



19 Virtual Assemblies

43 Hybrid Meetings

The Hub

620 Registered Users

4,668 Total Records



Sign up at members.wsac.org

Connect with us
on social media!



FACEBOOK
[@wacounties](https://www.facebook.com/wacounties)



INSTAGRAM
[@wacounties](https://www.instagram.com/wacounties)



X
[@wacounties](https://twitter.com/wacounties)



YOUTUBE
[@wacounties](https://www.youtube.com/wacounties)

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.



Association of County and
City Information Systems

ACHS

Association of County
Human Services



WACCC

Washington Association of
County Commissioners / Council Clerks

WACSWM

Washington Association of
County Solid Waste Managers

WCAA

Washington Counties
Administration Association

WSACE

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY ENGINEERS

WSACRPD

Washington State Association of County
& Regional Planning Directors



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



Solutions Center Directory

wsac.org/solutions-center

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.

OUR SOLUTIONS





NACo Live Healthy Program

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Live Healthy Prescription, Health & Dental Discount Program is a NO-COST program available to all member counties. It provides relief to uninsured and underinsured Americans who face growing health costs offering three ways to save:

- Prescription Drug Discount Card – Provides savings up to 80%* on generics and up to 40%* on brand-name prescription medications for residents and their pets
- MinuteClinic Savings – Save 15% at the medical walk-in clinic located in select CVS Pharmacy and Target Stores using the Live Healthy Prescription Discount Card*

livehealthy@naco.org

Since 2004, nearly 1,300 counties, parishes and boroughs joined, saving residents over \$713 million over 51 million prescriptions. The Live Healthy Program is NOT insurance.

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

Public Promise Insurance

Together, we are leveraging our collective strength to combat skyrocketing Rx costs for your employees. NACo Public Promise Insurance has partnered with CVS Caremark and Aetna – one of the largest Pharmacy Benefits Manager's in the nation – for both a stand-alone PBM contract and an integrated PBM contract.

Alex Herrera
Managing Director
aherrera@naco.org
 (713) 396-6001
publicpromiseinsurance.org/pbm

Savi

Public Service Loan Forgiveness PSLF is a federal program designed to forgive the remaining balance on eligible federal student loans for borrowers who work full-time for qualifying public service employers after they make 120 payments. As of August 2024, 2.3% of PSLF applications have been accepted since November 2020.

Tony Raffa

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cashVest by three+one

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Alternative Claims Management

ACM specializes in not-at-fault fleet vehicle claims with a goal of delivering the most complete recovery possible under the law and with good practice, our damage recovery approach differs from traditional subrogation with much better results. We collect for often overlooked damages. ACM can go back into your old claims to recover anything that was missed. Your dusty old files or computer records could be worth significant monies. (We can work files with no releases and remaining time under statute of limitations)

altclaim.com

Previ

Previ offers an exclusive employee membership with superior prices on premium mobile phone services. For cell service, Previ negotiates directly with T-Mobile and AT&T to offer unlimited everything mobile plans for Previ members and their families. The average savings for employees moving to a Previ membership plan is \$1,200+ annually. At a time when it seems everything else is getting more expensive, that's some significant savings.

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[wsac.org/solutions-center/
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PETPARENT

PETPARENT, is an animal welfare solution provider brought to you by Gov Companion. Our program builds an inclusive and high capture rate pet registry and animal services programming to work towards no kill shelters, help animal services, and return lost pets to their owners.

petparentusa.com/program

Proofpoint

Proofpoint, Inc. is a leading cybersecurity and compliance company that protects organizations' greatest assets and biggest risks: their people. With an integrated suite of cloud-based solutions, Proofpoint helps companies around the world stop targeted threats, safeguard their data, and make their users more resilient against cyber attacks. Leading organizations of all sizes, including more than half of the Fortune 1000, rely on Proofpoint for people-centric security and compliance solutions that mitigate their most critical risks across email, the cloud, social media, and the web.

proofpoint.com

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.

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Account Executive

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wsac.org/solutions-center/directory/publicsurplus/

Tyler Technologies

Tyler's Priority Based Budgeting enables local governments to easily uncover budget savings, identify revenue opportunities, better allocate funds, and create sustainable, fiscally responsible budgets. Harnessing the power of AI and machine learning, your organization can align government resources with your community's highest priorities.

- Easily uncover budget savings
- Leverage AI and machine learning data modeling
- Align funding to the highest priorities
- Identify new revenue possibilities
- Analyze cost versus outcomes for strategic budgeting
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tylertech.com/products/priority-based-budgeting



PLATINUM

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Washington State Association of Counties is providing its members with free Business Prime! Already paying for Prime? As a WSAC member, you can receive a prorated refund!

WSAC Member Benefits:

- Free Business Prime (\$3,499 value, unlimited users per account)
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BerryDunn

Focused on inspiring organizations to transform and innovate, our Local Government Practice Group partners with municipal, county, regional, and quasi-governmental entities throughout the US to help them meet their biggest challenges. We partner with local governments at the enterprise level, as well as within and across departments, to meet the most critical needs of your community, emphasizing principles of equity and engagement. We take pride in tailoring our projects to recognize the work our clients do every day. We care about what we do, and we care about the people impacted by our work.

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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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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.

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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.

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SILVER

McKinstry

McKinstry is a Northwest-based company specializing in energy efficiency, building system optimization, and facility management solutions. They provide engineering, construction, and consulting services focused on improving the sustainability, resiliency, and efficiency of the built environment.

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Vivid Co.

KB & Associates, LLC dba Vivid Co. is a small business located in Olympia, Washington. We provide high-caliber organizational development, project management, and organizational change management. With over 16 years of experience, we have successfully handled numerous engagements ranging from single-day coaching and facilitation sessions for small teams, to several high-risk, high-profile efforts involving tens of thousands of diverse stakeholders, thousands of staff, and multi-million-dollar budgets. Our firm specializes in supporting public entities; we have served a significant number of government organizations — county, state, and municipal.

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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.

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DLR Group

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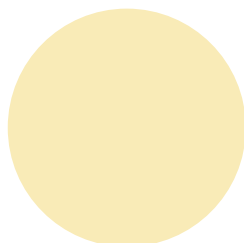
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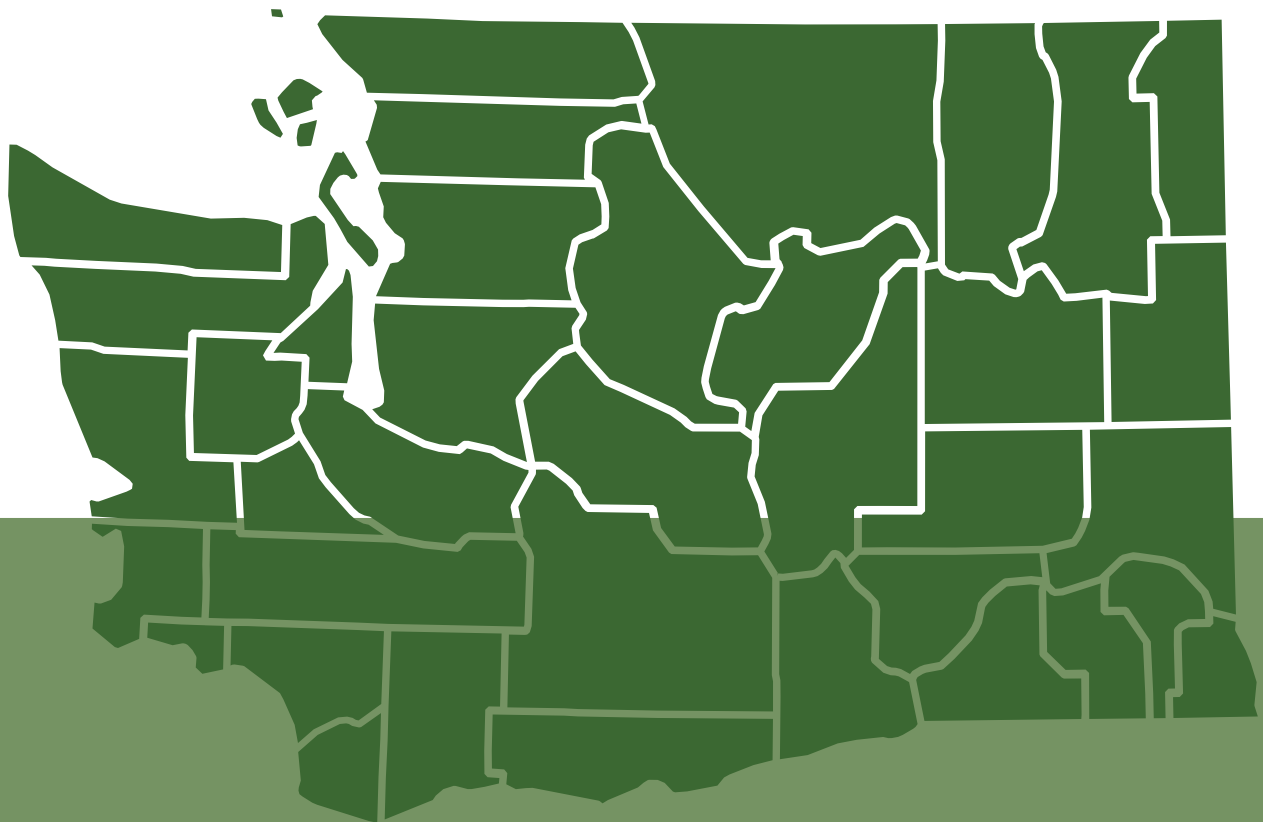
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