

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
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COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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COUNCILMEMBERS
Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA REVISION NOTICE FOR APRIL 23, 2019

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE EVENING COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
(PAPERWORK ATTACHED):

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. **AB2019-252** County Executive Jack Louws will present his State of the County address

OTHER ITEMS

(No Committee Assignment)

11. AB2019-253 Resolution supporting fare share funding bills before the Legislature



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2019-252

File ID:	AB2019-252	Version:	1	Status:	Agenda Ready
File Created:	04/18/2019	Entered by:	ALandry@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	County Executive's Office	File Type:	Presentation		

First Assigned to: Council

Agenda Date: 04/23/2019

Next Mtg. Date:

Hearing Date:

Primary Contact Email: alandry@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

County Executive Jack Louws will present his State of the County address

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
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Attachments:

Final Action:
Enactment Date:
Enactment #:



Whatcom County

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Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2019-253

File ID:	AB2019-253	Version:	2	Status:	Agenda Ready
File Created:	04/18/2019	Entered by:	DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Council Office	File Type:	Resolution		
First Assigned to:	Council				
Agenda Date:	04/23/2019	Next Mtg. Date:		Hearing Date:	

Primary Contact Email: DAdelste@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution supporting fare share funding bills before the Legislature

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Resolution supporting fare share funding bills before the Legislature

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:

Attachments: Resolution, Proposed Op Ed, Background Information

Final Action:
Enactment Date:
Enactment #:

PROPOSED BY: COUNTY AUDITOR

INTRODUCED: APRIL 23, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING FARE SHARE FUNDING BILLS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of County Auditors are seeking support for House Bill 1291 and Senate Bill 5073 which are currently before the State Legislature advocating for the State to pay its "fair share" of election expenses in even year elections when most of the State candidates are on the election ballot; and

WHEREAS, counties currently conduct elections on behalf of every level of government and those jurisdictions share in funding the costs of those elections; and

WHEREAS, additional activities have been added by the Legislature such as same-day voter registration, more ballot drop boxes and pre-paid postage that are important additions but which are also unfunded mandates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council supports the position of the Washington State Association of County Auditors and that an opinion piece shall be submitted to media sources expressing that support.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Royce Buckingham, Civil Deputy Prosecutor

No one should have to choose between safety and democracy. Your county shouldn't have to prioritize one over the other. But that's what happens every other year. And that's *exactly* what will happen again in 2020 if the Washington State Legislature continues refusing to pay its fair share of election costs.

Counties conduct elections on behalf of every level of government – from federal presidential elections all the way to local mosquito control districts. Washington State residents should be confident and proud that they have one of the most trustworthy and efficient election systems in the United States, with an excellent reputation for integrity, accuracy, and access.

Achieving this unparalleled election system comes with a cost. It's expensive to modernize and maintain election registration and ballot-counting systems. It's expensive to provide the highest possible election security. And it's expensive to conduct elections for 4.4 million registered voters across the state.

Same-day voter registration, more ballot drop boxes, and pre-paid postage are important additions to help improve voter access. However, they are costly additions that have been mandated by your state legislators. They are either not funded fully or not funded at all, creating more unfunded mandates to county government who already struggle to meet other obligations in providing public health services, law enforcement, courts, and a myriad of other statutorily and constitutionally required programs and services.

Who should pay? Nearly every ballot in every election contains a mixture of districts, such state, county, city, schools, etc. And every participating district pays its fair share of the total election cost based on the number of registered voters within its boundary lines. Every participant *except* for the State of Washington, that is. The State Legislature has decided to "dine and dash" during even years, when the vast majority of their state offices are on the ballot. Despite being given multiple opportunities to do the right thing and change the law, the state instead sticks your cash-strapped county government with the bill.

That's why your county commissioners and councilmembers are forced to choose between the public safety you need and a democracy you can trust.

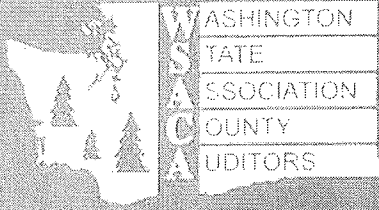
When counties are on the hook to pay the entire cost of conducting the state's elections, it means that law enforcement and our criminal justice system, public health, and parks are deprived of resources. So long as the state fails to pay its fair share of state elections, your county will shoulder the burden of these unfunded mandates. County officials will continue to foot the state's bill while siphoning resources away from public safety and quality of life.

Or will they? Election administrators are readying for 2020, looming as the largest and most contentious election in Washington State's history. Will counties even be able to backfill the state's election costs? Is this a risk you want to take?

Now more than ever, we must support secure, transparent, and accessible elections. Hundreds of county officials – including all 39 independently-elected county auditors and elections directors – asked the State Legislature to pass a Fair Share Election Funding bill (House Bill 1291 and Senate Bill 5073).

Instead of stepping up to their responsibility as every school, fire, and park district does, the state of Washington continues to refuse to pay its bills putting your vote at risk.

Let your voice be heard on this issue and tell your legislators to stop putting our electoral system at risk. As representatives of the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington State Association of Counties, we urge you to call or e-mail your state legislators and tell them it's time to pay their fair share of their own elections. If you don't know how to reach the lawmakers who represent you, call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 or visit www.leg.wa.gov



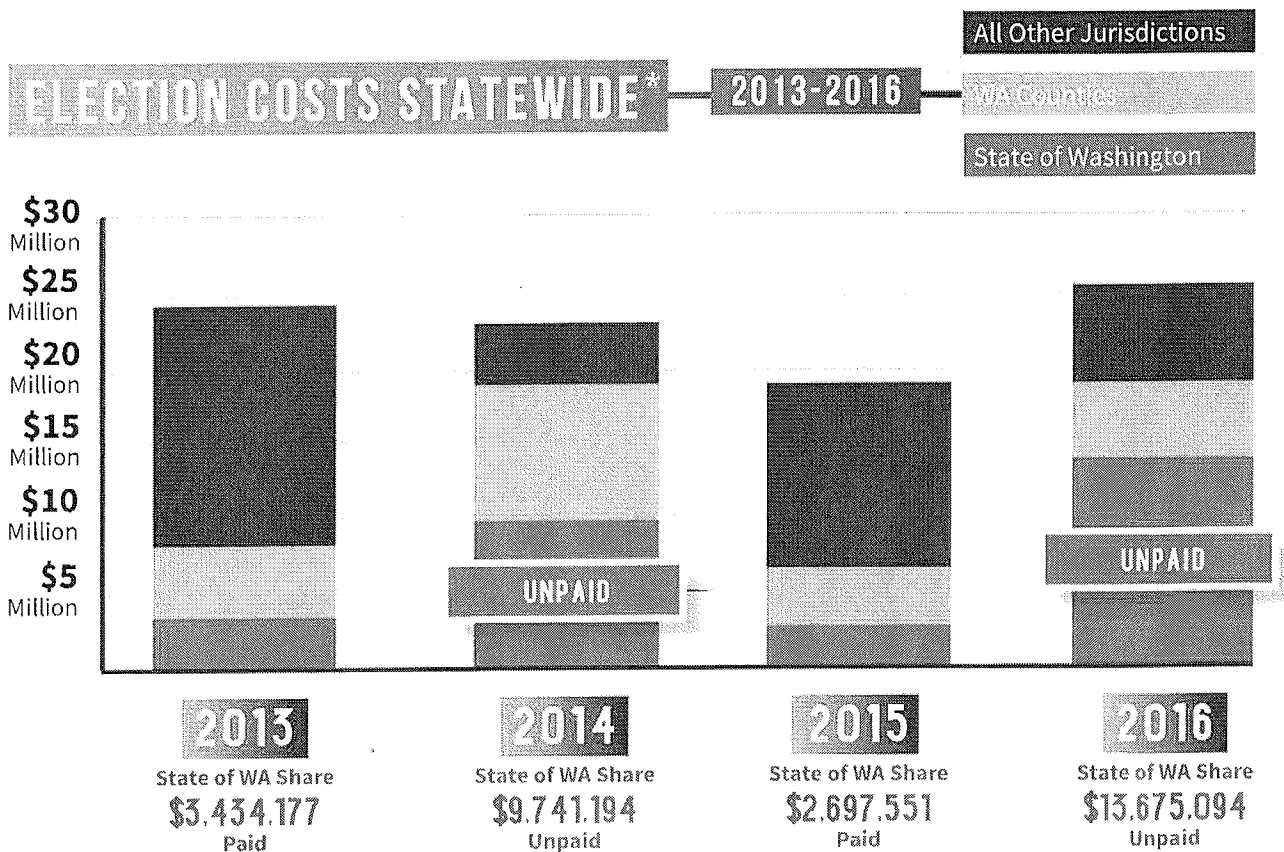
2019 SESSION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

FAIR SHARE ELECTION FUNDING

AN ACT RELATING TO STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF ELECTION COSTS.

This proposal asks the State to pay a proportionate share of elections and recounts, just as local jurisdictions and districts do. Currently, the State only pays its share of costs in odd years. This bill would extend the requirement for state payment of election costs to odd *and* even years.

Counties bill direct and indirect election costs to jurisdictions using the BARS Manual and accounting guidelines from the State Auditor's Office. The State is the only jurisdiction that doesn't pay its proportionate share in even years. When the State doesn't pay, state costs are absorbed by each county.



*Wahkiakum County only provided General Election data.

FAIR SHARE ELECTION EFFECTS

BY COUNTY

County	State Share 2013 Paid	State Share 2014 Unpaid	State Share 2015 Paid	State Share 2016 Unpaid	Unpaid Share Over 4 Years
Adams	\$6,579	\$22,976	\$25,345	\$42,442	\$65,418
Asotin	\$10,531	\$12,023	\$5,900	\$9,529	\$21,552
Benton	\$79,454	\$111,441	\$54,575	\$278,983	\$390,424
Chelan	\$31,116	\$85,808	\$31,285	\$70,323	\$156,131
Clallam	\$29,964	\$143,059	\$24,104	\$177,431	\$320,490
Clark	\$100,848	\$403,906	\$110,300	\$811,189	\$1,215,095
Columbia	\$522	\$2,775	\$486	\$4,243	\$7,018
Cowlitz	\$37,447	\$96,817	\$32,494	\$330,556	\$427,373
Douglas	\$20,826	\$56,390	\$17,260	\$134,074	\$190,464
Ferry	\$11,075	\$4,318	\$3,024	\$11,591	\$15,909
Franklin	\$45,983	\$147,776	\$105,920	\$267,178	\$414,954
Garfield	\$611	\$2,332	\$3,750	\$6,125	\$8,457
Grant	\$11,595	\$22,968	\$14,122	\$16,481	\$39,449
Grays Harbor	\$17,946	\$53,976	\$17,575	\$118,185	\$172,161
Island	\$35,608	\$99,223	\$25,807	\$273,759	\$372,982
Jefferson	\$11,405	\$29,983	\$11,153	\$70,595	\$100,578
King	\$1,383,589	\$4,266,289	\$990,265	\$4,673,262	\$8,939,551
Kitsap	\$242,840	\$399,601	\$107,218	\$667,967	\$1,067,568
Kittitas	\$15,748	\$38,331	\$10,896	\$36,689	\$75,020
Klickitat	\$7,737	\$29,348	\$12,284	\$47,770	\$77,118
Lewis	\$22,954	\$53,656	\$22,140	\$85,359	\$139,015
Lincoln	\$11,547	\$37,920	\$10,458	\$47,144	\$85,064
Mason	\$29,664	\$98,145	\$35,046	\$137,029	\$235,174
Okanogan	\$25,232	\$33,494	\$12,264	\$53,169	\$86,663
Pacific	\$5,355	\$22,515	\$12,362	\$33,933	\$56,448
Pend Oreille	\$32,003	\$38,206	\$11,595	\$86,100	\$124,306
Pierce	\$297,152	\$910,867	\$206,261	\$1,143,250	\$2,054,117
San Juan	\$8,812	\$39,366	\$11,616	\$76,684	\$116,050
Skagit	\$52,042	\$101,310	\$45,064	\$188,256	\$289,566
Skamania	\$9,275	\$26,085	\$10,130	\$65,219	\$91,304
Snohomish	\$156,751	\$797,192	\$121,402	\$957,442	\$1,754,634
Spokane	\$190,186	\$401,686	\$132,165	\$806,507	\$1,208,193
Stevens	\$67,172	\$69,031	\$28,818	\$106,761	\$175,792
Thurston	\$103,450	\$239,632	\$100,977	\$705,143	\$944,775
Wahkiakum	\$5,311	\$8,487	\$2,648	\$4,934	\$13,421
Walla Walla	\$53,102	\$83,263	\$51,388	\$181,298	\$264,561
Whatcom	\$74,147	\$383,770	\$80,643	\$398,843	\$782,613
Whitman	\$20,651	\$53,720	\$67,176	\$83,180	\$136,900
Yakima	\$167,934	\$313,497	\$131,622	\$466,460	\$779,957
TOTAL	\$3,426,440	\$9,711,845	\$2,685,266	\$13,675,094	\$23,416,265