



2013-2015 Legislative Agenda

Counties deliver constitutionally and statutorily directed services to Washington's citizens. The Washington State Association of Counties 2013-2015 Legislative Agenda is aimed at ensuring counties can efficiently and effectively deliver these services by providing adequate revenue, containing costs, and building a foundation for future legislative outcomes.



Provide Adequate Revenue

- **Protect state shared revenue:** The loss of local revenue and prior state cuts means that state shared revenues have never been more important to counties. Protecting these fund sources is critical.
- **Fund state-mandated programs:** The state should make it a priority to fund the requirements it places on counties, such as storm water requirements, and Growth Management Act and Shoreline Master Program updates.
- **Support new transportation funding:** Create a new revenue source for transportation and transit for county transportation priorities.
- **Indigent Defense Court Rules:** Secure new revenue to offset increased costs associated with implementation of the Indigent Defense Court Rules.
- **Network of care funding for veterans services:** Support funding to establish a state-wide portal for veterans' services.
- **GMA Penalties for Counties Considered in Noncompliance:** Allow jurisdictions to apply for state funding when they are in the process of resolving compliance issues.



Contain Costs

- **Public records:** Provide the opportunity to legally enjoin harassing requestors, and expand the definition of copying to include digital transfer.
- **Binding interest arbitration:** Require the arbitrator to consider ability to pay and create a definition of comparables.
- **Liability:** Seek a limitation on joint and several liability. Allow the admissibility of seatbelt usage in tort cases.
- **Exempt wells:** Provide greater clarity for the use of permit exempt wells as a source of domestic water supply.



Build a Foundation for Future Success

Many of the problems facing county government are contentious and difficult, and have been gridlocked for years.

Washington's system of financing the programs and services that counties are constitutionally and statutorily required to provide, is structurally unsustainable. The State of Washington controls both the purse strings and the cost drivers. Solutions are needed to break through these challenges.

Through collaboration with our diverse partners, WSAC is building a foundation for future success on these challenging issues at the same time it is advancing discrete legislative ideas.