



Washington Association
of **COUNTY OFFICIALS**

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2018 Legislative Priorities

Sustainable Policies, Sustainable Counties

Counties provide constitutionally and statutorily directed state services to all of Washington's residents. The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) is working to secure clear and sustainable policies to provide all 39 counties with the foundation to provide sustainable service levels to every Washingtonian.

COUNTY ASSESSORS

HB 2608 / SB 6251: The County Assessors are asking to modify the senior exemption qualifying income levels from legislatively established dollar thresholds to thresholds based on a percentage of county income. There is no change in the number of qualifying levels and no currently qualified senior loses the qualification.

Additionally, the Assessors support the Board of Tax Appeals' (BTA) supplemental budget request including money for additional hearing officers to eliminate backlogs.

COUNTY CLERKS

SB 6324: The County Clerks are seeking to update certain court record keeping and destruction requirements and clerical duties outlined in RCW 7.52.160; RCW 36.23.030; and RCW 36.23.070.

COUNTY PROSECUTORS

The County Prosecutors are seeking to amend the Victim Rights statute to protect victims from abusive questioning by pro se defendants. The proposed legislation provides courts specific authority to limit questions or the form of questions to prevent abuse.

WHAT IS WACO?

The membership of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) are the elected county assessors, auditors, clerks, coroners and medical examiners, prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs, treasurers and comparable appointed officials in charter counties. WACO is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization.

Questions regarding the WACO legislative priorities for the 2018 session may be directed to Scott Blonien, Executive Director or to Monty Cobb, Deputy Director and General Counsel.

COUNTY AUDITORS

HB 2478 / SB 6058: The County Auditors are seeking legislation to require write-in candidates to file a declaration of candidacy. This will clarify when write-in votes must be counted and reported.

HB 2316 / SB 6057: The County Auditors seek to establish a recording standards commission within the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) to promote uniformity and consistency in document recording standards.

COUNTY CORONERS/ME

SB 6366: The County Coroners are asking for the adoption of clear legislative language authorizing coroners to subpoena records and other evidentiary materials.

COUNTY TREASURERS

HB 2536 / SB 6182: The County Treasurers are seeking to modify RCW 84.56.250 to eliminate "neglect" from "willfully refuses or neglects to collect" and substitute "in RCW 84.56.300" for "as provided herein" to promote clarity in statute.

HB 2537 / SB 6183: The County Treasurers are looking to add language eliminating certain title signatures and extinguishing liens on treasurer foreclosure on distraint sales of titled manufactured homes in RCW 46.12.700.