



Getting Results for Families in Skagit County

When Governor Gregoire took office in 2004, she inherited a \$2.2 billion deficit, the state had made massive cuts to education and healthcare, unemployment was rising and critical areas like transportation had suffered years of neglect.

The Governor took on these and many other challenges and set out to make a difference in the lives of Washington's citizens and working families.

But there is still much work to be done, and with Governor Gregoire's leadership, our state can continue to make progress and look forward to four more great years.

Strengthening the Economy

Gov. Gregoire was raised by a single, working mother, and understands what it's like to live through tough times. She is building a stronger economy for our state.

- She inherited a \$2.2 billion deficit four years ago. Since then, she cut red tape and turned the state's deficit into a big surplus. The Pew Center on the States ranked Washington as one of the best-managed states in the nation.
- Gov. Gregoire led the effort to create nearly 225,000 new jobs. Forbes Magazine ranks Washington the third best state to do business. Fortune Magazine ranks Washington as the fifth-best state for small businesses.
- In Skagit County, Gov. Gregoire pushed for the replacement of the science building at Skagit Valley College, the creation of new Vocational Skills Centers, and began the process to establish a University of Washington branch campus in the region. These investments will ensure that the community's business needs will be met in the 21st century.
- Under Gov. Gregoire's leadership, our highways are recovering from a decade of neglect. From 2003 to 2004, only 12 transportation projects were completed. Thanks to Gov. Gregoire's focus on transportation, today we have 165 completed projects. In the next six months, 109 more projects will be started or completed.
- In Skagit County, Gov. Gregoire's has invested \$101.2 million in SR-20 to widen the highway, reduce congestion, increase safety, and significantly improve access to portions of Skagit County. She has also pushed to improve and ultimately replace the Anacortes Terminal. An upgraded SR 11/Josh Wilson Rd. interchange will reduce congestion and accidents within the interchange and connecting street. Finally, a new I-5 Park and Ride south of Mt. Vernon will facilitate mass transit access for the community.

Protecting Children and Families

As a mother and tough-on-crime former attorney general, Gov. Chris Gregoire understands what it takes to protect and help our children and families.

- Under her leadership, Washington's crime rate is at a 14-year low. Nobody is tougher on sex offenders: she increased jail sentences for sex offenders, required electronic monitoring of the worst, and expanded the state DNA registry for criminals convicted of sex crimes.
- Gov. Gregoire increased funding for schools to reduce class sizes, increase teacher pay, and focus on math and science standards, so our children will be prepared for the global economy. In 2008, more than 91 percent of students passed the WASL.
- Gov. Gregoire is increasing investments in Skagit County schools to total \$257.7 million for K-12 education, representing a \$1.4 million increase. In total, \$24.4 million has been invested in new Vocational Skills Centers, including a Marine Industry Skills Center in Anacortes.
- As a mother, Gov. Chris Gregoire believes all of our children should have access to healthcare. She has expanded healthcare to 84,000 more children with the goal to cover all kids by 2010.

Creating a Cleaner Future

Gov. Gregoire believes our environment is our greatest asset and legacy to our children and grandchildren. She is creating a cleaner, greener Washington.

- Gov. Gregoire is leading the nation's fight against global warming. Laws passed under her administration will create real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Washington is one of the nation's largest producers of renewable energy. To continue Washington's leadership, Gov. Gregoire put the state on track to create 25,000 green collar jobs by 2020 in areas like renewable energy. She has awarded a \$500,000 grant to help build the Skagit County Digester, which will provide renewable energy to the region and support local agriculture.
- She is working with businesses, communities, Tribes and elected officials to clean up Puget Sound, restore fish habitat and leave a legacy for future generations. Under Gov. Gregoire's leadership, we are making record investments to clean water, with \$6.7 million in grants to the Port of Anacortes. Wiley Slough is being restored, and SR 530 is being realigned away from the Sauk River to preserve the route and avoid impacts to fish habitat.

Gov. Gregoire's Skagit County Investments

Gov. Gregoire is getting results so all of our children learn. In Skagit County, she directed investments toward:

- Developing a master business plan and site selection process for building a University of Washington campus in the region.
- Replacing the science building at Skagit Valley College.
- Improving vocational education and constructing new vocational skills centers.

Gov. Gregoire is taking on the challenge of repairing a decade of neglect on our highways. In Skagit County, she directed investments toward:

- Improving SR 20 by widening and repaving it, adding new turn lanes, and upgrading interchange designs.
- Improving and ultimately replacing the Anacortes Terminal.
- Upgrading SR 11/Josh Wilson Rd. interchange to reduce congestion and accidents within the interchange and connecting street.
- Constructing a new I-5 Park and Ride south of Mt. Vernon to facilitate mass transit access for the community.
- Redirecting SR 530 away from the Sauk River to prevent erosion damage to the route and avoid impacts on fish habitat.

Gov. Gregoire is helping and protecting our children and families. In Skagit County, she is directing investments toward:

- Improving flood control in Mt. Vernon.
- Building a new Skagit Recreation and Events Center.
- Upgrading wastewater treatment across Bay View Park.
- Supporting the Skagit County Job Development Fund.
- Improving the North Cascades Gateway Center.
- Giving customized training for jobs at Transform, a high-tech/high-skill module home company in Skagit County.