



## **Getting Results for Families in Benton and Franklin Counties**

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 paycheck to paycheck. 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.
- Gov. Gregoire led the effort to create more than 200,000 new jobs. Forbes Magazine ranks our state in the top-three to do business. Gov. Gregoire supported farmers with investments into the West Richland Diking District. The Port of Benton has a new transloader to help move goods to and from Washington.
- 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 completed 130 projects.
- In Franklin and Benton counties, more than \$32 million is being spent to improve safety and reduce congestion. More lanes on SR 240 and SR 24 will help reduce the number of collisions. Better interchanges and wider shoulders will reduce congestion and increase safety on SR 240.

## **Protecting Children and Families**

As a mother and former tough-on-crime 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 90 percent of students passed the WASL.
- Gov. Gregoire is increasing investments in Benton and Franklin schools to total more than \$609 million. The WSU branch campus in the Tri-Cities has 135 new enrollment slots. Columbia Basin College's Business Education Center was renovated. Gov. Gregoire also supported the groundwork for the construction of a new Vocational Building.
- As a mother, Gov. Chris Gregoire believes healthcare is a right, not a perk, especially for children. She has expanded healthcare to 84,000 more children with the goal to have all children covered by 2010.
- Gov. Gregoire increased support for the Richland and Benton food bank to help families in need. She helped fund the construction of Richland's Babe Ruth Field Complex and the Tri-Cities Baseball Stadium.

## **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. Gov. Gregoire put the state on track to create 25,000 green collar jobs by 2020 in areas like renewable energy to continue Washington's leadership.
- 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.

## Governor Gregoire's Benton and Franklin County Investments

**Governor Gregoire is getting results so that all our children receive a world-class education. In Benton and Franklin counties, Gov. Gregoire directed investments toward:**

- Creating 135 new enrollment slots at WSU Tri-Cities
- Renovating Columbia Basin College's Business Education Building
- Constructing a Columbia Basin College Vocational Building

**Governor Gregoire is taking on the challenge of fixing a neglected transportation system. In Benton and Franklin counties, she is improving safety and reducing congestion by directing investments towards:**

- Repairing deteriorated pavement, repainting road markers, and restoring road signs on SR 221 from Prosser Hill to SR 22.
- Reducing collisions on SR 240 by widening the roadway and shoulders between Beloit Rd and Kingsgate Way.
- Reconfiguring the interchange on US 395 from Columbia Dr to SR 240 to improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of collisions.
- Constructing new passing lanes on SR 24 between SR 241 and Cold Creek Rd.
- Creating new lanes in each direction on SR 240 between the Richland Y and Columbia Center interchange.
- Making improvements to the Tri-cities Area Maintenance Facility Site, which will make highway repairs easier.
- Improving capacity on the I-182/Road 100 Interchange by providing signals at ramp terminals, adding turn pockets to the eastbound and westbound off-ramps, and adding a turn lane to Road 100.

**To help and protect Benton and Franklin's children, Gov. Gregoire is directing investments towards:**

- Relieving hunger through the Benton City Food Bank
- Improving irrigation at the West Richland Diking District
- Creating a new geological museum, the Ice Age Flood Interpretive Center
- Building the Richland Babe Ruth Field Complex and the Tri-Cities baseball stadium
- Creating a Pedestrian overpass over State Route 395 at Court Street in Pasco