



Getting Results for Families in Whatcom 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.
- Gov. Gregoire led the effort to create more than 200,000 new jobs. Forbes Magazine ranks our state in the top-five to do business.
- 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 130 completed projects.
- Nearly \$170 million is being spent to reduce congestion and improve safety on Whatcom County highways. Additional lanes in both direction are being build on SR 539. An extra lane is also being added to SR 543 from I-5 to the Canadian border. Interchanges on I-5 are being improved, as are exit ramps.

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 and 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.
- In Whatcom County, she increased education funding to open 446 new enrollment slots at Western Washington University, and renovate and modernize three WWU buildings. Funds were also given to Bellingham Technical College for a new Instructional Resource Center with better classrooms, libraries and workspaces to teach students.
- 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 cover all kids by 2010.
- Gov. Gregoire helped fund buildings for the Whatcom Museum Society and Ferndale Boys & Girls Clubs, and provided the Bellingham Food Bank more support to help families in need.

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. Gov. Gregoire is cleaning up toxic sites in Puget Sound near Whatcom County. And grants were given to clean up the Port of Bellingham.

Gov. Gregoire's Whatcom County Investments

Gov. Chris Gregoire is getting results so all of our children can learn. In Whatcom County, she directed investments to:

- Western Washington University for nearly 450 new enrollment slots and to renovate three buildings
- Bellingham Technical College for an Instructional Resource Center

To help strengthen our economy, Gov. Gregoire is taking on the challenge of making up for a decade of neglect on our highways. In Whatcom County, she directed investments to:

- SR 539 to construct one additional lane in each direction from Ten Mile Rd to SR 546
- I-5 improvements at the Blaine exit
- SR 543 from I-5 to Canadian border to add additional lanes

Gov. Gregoire is protecting and helping our children and families. In Whatcom County, she directed investments to the:

- Bellingham Food Bank
- Ferndale Boys and Girls Club

Gov. Gregoire is getting results for a cleaner future. In Whatcom County, Gov. Gregoire directed investments to:

- Clean up Toxic Sites in Puget Sound
- Grants to help clean up the Port of Bellingham