



Getting Results for Families in Whitman 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 had risen 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

Governor 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.

- Governor Gregoire led the effort to create nearly 250,000 new jobs. Under her leadership, Forbes Magazine recently ranked Washington the third best state to do business in the country.
- Under Governor 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, with 109 more on the way.
- In Whitman County, Governor Gregoire has made investments to reduce congestion and improve safety on our highways. US 195 was repaved between the SR 271 Junction and South Plaza, improving traffic flow on this key transit corridor between Pullman and Spokane. Two additional lanes are currently being added to SR 270 from Pullman East to the Idaho State line to improve capacity and safety on this important commuter route. The Palouse River and Coulee City railroads are being purchased and rehabilitated in order to preserve the state's largest grain hauling system, which runs through Grant, Lincoln, Spokane and Whitman Counties.

- Governor Gregoire broke through a 30-year gridlock and delivered the historic Columbia River Basin Water Resource Management agreement to help farmers, fishers and communities in Eastern Washington. The agreement provides the largest delivery of new water to towns and farms in the Columbia Basin in three decades while also protecting the Columbia River's endangered salmon.

Restoring Fiscal Responsibility

These are tough economic times, and we are all feeling it. The Wall Street meltdown – following years of failed oversight by the Bush Administration – is having an impact here at home. Now, more than ever, we need a tough governor to lead during tough times.

- When Governor Gregoire took office, she inherited a \$2.2 billion deficit. Today, the state enjoys no deficit and an \$850 million surplus.
- Governor Gregoire announced immediate actions to cut the projected budget shortfall in half.
- The governor also championed the creation of a constitutionally-protected Rainy Day Fund
- Under Governor Gregoire's leadership, the Pew Center on the States ranked Washington one of the best-managed states in the nation.

Supporting Washington State University

Governor Gregoire has been a strong supporter of Washington State University. With new WSU programs in Vancouver and the Tri-Cities, Governor Gregoire's investments are furthering the reputation of one of the top research institutions in the Northwest.

- Governor Gregoire believes that bioscience research at WSU is crucial to advancing and promoting agriculture. In 2005, Governor Gregoire dedicated the new Plant Biosciences Building, promoting WSU's leadership role in animal health and helping the state's agricultural community build on its global reputation for safe, quality products.
- And, Governor Gregoire has invested in construction of the new Biotechnology/Life Sciences building at Pullman to ensure that WSU remains a global leader.
- The Life Sciences Discovery Fund was created at the urging of Governor Gregoire to grow the state's bioscience research and industries.
- Governor Gregoire also invested in building renovation, maintenance, and infrastructure projects at WSU so that our students can continue to learn in a world-class environment.
- Governor Gregoire is helping students at WSU and elsewhere access higher education by increasing financial aid funding by more than \$25 million, adding more than 18,000 new enrollment slots at public universities and supporting the trades.
- She declared October 18, 2008, WSU Foundation Day, as Crimson and Gray Day across Washington state.

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.
- Governor Gregoire increased funding for schools to reduce class sizes, increase teacher pay, and focused 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. Chris Gregoire believes all of our children should have healthcare. She has expanded healthcare to 84,000 more children with the goal to have all kids covered by 2010.

Creating a Cleaner Future

Governor Gregoire believes our environment is our greatest asset and legacy to our children and grandchildren. She is creating a cleaner, greener Washington that helps our state economy thrive.

- Governor 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.