

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action  
Against:

Shawn Bunney

Respondent.

Case No. 11-006

STIPULATION AS TO FACTS,  
VIOLATION AND PENALTY

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Andrea McNamara Doyle, and Respondent Shawn Bunney, submit this Stipulation as to Facts, Violation and Penalty in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

**JURISDICTION**

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17, the Public Disclosure Act; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and WAC 390.

**FACTS**

1. Respondent Shawn Bunney served on the Pierce County Council in District 1 for two terms. He was elected in 2002 and then re-elected in 2006. Pierce County Council members are limited to two terms in office, and his second term expired in December 2010. During 2010, Mr. Bunney was a candidate for State Representative in the 31st Legislative District. He appeared on the August 17, 2010 primary election ballot and was defeated in the November 2, 2010 general election.
2. The Pierce County Council ("Council") allots each council member a portion of council funds for use as salary and benefits for an assistant, training, supplies, dues,

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printing, mail processing, and miscellaneous expenses. Expenditures from this assigned allotment are made at the discretion of each individual council member. Pre-approval is not required by other council members or county administrators.

3. The Council's 1998 policy, "PRINTING AND MAILING GUIDELINES-USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES" governed printing and mailing of council member communications. The Guidelines set the mailing date for any council member bulk mailer to be July 31 for any mailer sent during a year in which the council member's name appears on the election ballot. The original mailing date of July 31 was six weeks before the primary election in 1998 when the policy was established. Mr. Bunney sent his 2010 mailer six weeks before the August 17, 2010 primary election and four weeks before primary election ballots were made available to voters.
4. For council member mailings, council members were not required to seek review or obtain approval for content, design, vendors, or recipients from other council members or county administrators, except that vendors used for the mailers must be approved if they have not been previously approved by the county.
5. During 2010, Mr. Bunney's district, District 1, had approximately 140,000 residents. Additionally, approximately 67 percent of the District 1 registered voters resided within the boundaries of the 31st Legislative District.
6. On July 2, 2010, Mr. Bunney sent a mailer to 22,000 registered voters within the boundaries of District 1 who had voted in previous elections. A copy of Mr. Bunney's 2010 mailer is attached to this stipulation. Additionally, copies of Mr. Bunney's previous council mailers are attached to this stipulation.
7. Mr. Bunney used Council funds allotted to District 1 to pay for the design, production and dissemination of his 2010 mailer. The cost of Mr. Bunney's 2010 mailer was \$11,261.81. The costs included \$2,400 for design and project management work, \$3,039.63 for printing, and \$5,822.18 for mailing services.

8. Mr. Bunney stated that he sought to prepare and send his July 2010 mailer prior to July 2 but challenges with a previous county vendor and a replacement vendor resulted in its preparation and mailing on July 2. Mr. Bunney believed the July 2 mailing date was in compliance with the Council's mailing guidelines. Mr. Bunney further stated that in making decisions about the design, content and targeting of his 2010 mailer, he based his decisions on what he believed to be past practices of other county council members, county elected officials, and other county communications.

#### STATUTORY AND RULE AUTHORITY

9. **RCW 42.17.130** states: No elective official nor any employee of his [or her] office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency. However, this does not apply to the following activities:
  - (1) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission of a special purpose district including, but not limited to, fire districts, public hospital districts, library districts, park districts, port districts, public utility districts, school districts, sewer districts, and water districts, to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;
  - (2) A statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry;
  - (3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.
10. **WAC 390-03-273** states: Normal and regular conduct of a public office or agency, as that term is used in the proviso to RCW 42.17.130, means conduct which is (1)

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lawful, i.e., specifically authorized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in an appropriate enactment, and (2) usual, i.e., not effected or authorized in or by some extraordinary means or manner. No local office or agency may authorize a use of public facilities for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or promoting or opposing a ballot proposition, in the absence of a constitutional, charter, or statutory provision separately authorizing such use.

### VIOLATION

Based on the Stipulation of Facts set forth above, Respondent stipulates to a single violation of RCW 42.17.130 for his use of Council funds to design, produce and disseminate his July 2, 2010 mailer to 22,000 registered voters in Pierce County Council District 1.

### PENALTY

Based upon the above Stipulation as to Facts and Violation, Respondent agrees that a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,700 may be assessed against him, with \$850 suspended based on his compliance with the following conditions:

1. Respondent is not found to have committed further violations of RCW 42.17.130/RCW 42.17A.555 within four years from the date of the entry of the Commission's Final Order in this matter; and
2. Respondent pays the non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$850) within 60 days of the date of entry of the Commission's Final Order in this matter.
3. In the event that Respondent fails to meet these terms, the suspended portion of the penalty shall become due without any further intervention of the Commission.

Respondent affirms his intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A in the future.

Andrea M. Doyle 2/21/2012  
 Andrea McNamara Doyle, Executive Director Date Signed  
 Public Disclosure Commission

Shawn Bunnay 2/17/2012  
 Shawn Bunnay, Respondent Date Signed

Pierce County Council  
**Shawn Bunney**

Dear Friends,  
My term as your representative on the Pierce County Council is coming to an end. This is my last news-letter to the district. This letter is in some ways a farewell note but also a thank you note. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative to the County Council. It's a tough job, but it's a great job. As your councilmember I had three priorities: adopt a responsible county budget, resolve the issues sur-rounding Lake Tapps, and improve our regional transportation system.

#### A Responsible County Budget

When I was first elected we had no idea that a major economic downturn was six years off, but the deci-sions we made to limit the growth of county government during the boom years made the work of bal-ancing the budget after the crash possible. Before the downturn we reduced overhead costs, made government more efficient, eliminated wasteful programs, avoided debt and saved for a rainy day. After the downturn Pierce County faced a \$13 million general fund shortfall, a more manageable number than those faced by the State of Washington and other governments. To learn how we balanced the budget and kept all our law enforcement officers on the street without raising taxes, please read the other side of this card "Stretching your county tax dollar".

#### Lake Tapps

Today Lake Tapps is a home to thousands, a regional recreation hub and some day a source of fresh wa-ter to hundreds of thousands. The lake was threatened because of changing federal regulations. After 10 years and thousands of hours of work a lasting solution has been reached - without raising taxes - through four separate agreements among tribes, Puget Sound Energy, Cascade Water Alliance, Pierce County, Bonney Lake, Sumner, Buckley, and Auburn.

#### Regional Highways

When you live in our area you know that road projects are vital to jobs and our quality of life. Our region has been neglected - often in favor of King County - and now our transportation system is nearing collapse. I worked to expand SR 162, SR 167, 1-5, and the Cross-base Highway. The 167 extension alone was estimated to create 80,000 new private sector jobs through trade growth at the Port of Tacoma.

Yours Very Truly,

  
Shawn Bunney  
Pierce County Councilmember, District 1

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PEC Exhibit # 4  
Page 1 of 2

## FOCUS ON

# Job Creation

The economic downturn is the single greatest challenge facing our families and our county government. Councilmember Bunney has promoted job creation through three major policies:

### #1 Simpler, more effective rules and regulations.

Creating new jobs means obeying a mountain of often confusing (and even contradictory) regulations. Councilmember Bunney is leading the effort to rewrite thousands of pages of regula-tions - making them easier to understand, easier to comply with and still effective.

### #2 Lower Fees and Taxes

When you choose to create a job you face a long list of fees, taxes and permitting costs. The County Council stopped ef-forts to increase fees and taxes, leaving more money in the private sector for job creation.

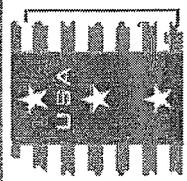
### #3 Jobs Corridors

Pierce County has managed its budget more carefully than other local governments, giving it more ability to build roads and other transportation projects during the downturn, when construction costs are lower. This is a win-win for ev-eryone. Pierce County creates hundreds of good jobs and taxpayers saved millions of dollars because we're building when costs are lowest.

Pierce County Councilmember Shawn Bunney  
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046  
Tacoma, WA 98402

LOT 6001

Related to Public Disclosure Commission



# Stretching Your County Tax Dollar

Every government and family in the United States is coping with the economic downturn. In Pierce County, we limited the growth of government during the boom years and we set aside money in a "rainy day" account - at the time we did not know that the proverbial rainy day was just a few years off. Even with this careful planning budget cuts were still necessary. Here is how we managed your county budget:

## The Challenge: cope with a \$66 million dollar shortfall in the county budget, while preserving public services.

The total Pierce County budget, at its highest point, was \$880 million. Most of this spending is controlled by state and federal mandates. Just over 1/3 of that number makes up the "general fund" which pays for most of the programs that we think of as county government: sheriff's deputies, the prosecutor's office, general government, parks and other programs. Almost every cut in the county budget must be made to the general fund.

## Set Priorities: Public Safety and No New Taxes

As a County Council we thought about the county budget the same way any family would think about its own budget. We set priorities, we decided what had to be protected from cuts and we decided what the county could do without for the duration of the downturn.

Our highest priority was public safety, which accounts for over 75% of the general fund. Unfortunately when you prioritize your largest budget area that means the remainder of the budget must take larger cuts. This allowed us to keep all of our deputy sheriffs on the street, while other counties face large layoffs.

Other local governments and the State of Washington have relied on tax increases to make their budgets work. We decided against this. Our view is that families are struggling to make ends meet, businesses are closing, jobs are being lost. We thought it more rational public policy for the county to tighten its belt, rather than pass more pain on to taxpayers.

Need help with a county issue? Please contact me

**Pierce County Councilmember**

**Shawn Bunney**

Council District 1: Bonney Lake, South Prairie, Wilkeson, Edgewood, Milton, Sumner, Orting, Carbonado, Buckley and unincorporated Pierce County

Committees: Chair, Economic and Infrastructure Development Committee and Vice Chair, Community Development Committee

Contact Information: Phone: 253.798.3635  
Fax: 253.796.7507 E-mail: sbunney@pcc.pierce.wa.us

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# An Update From Your Pierce County Councilmember

## SHAWN BUNNEY

Volume II, December 04



### SHAWN BUNNEY

**Councilmember,  
District 1**

Chair,  
Economic & Infrastructure  
Development Committee

Chair,  
Performance Audit  
Committee

Member,  
Public Safety & Human  
Services Committee

**To contact Shawn:**

(253) 798-3635  
(800) 992-2456  
FAX (253) 798-7509  
sbunney@co.pierce.wa.us

**Office of the  
Pierce County Council:**

930 Tacoma Avenue S.  
Room 1046  
Tacoma WA 98402-2176  
(253) 798-7777  
FAX (253) 798-7509  
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1-800-992-2456

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District 1 County Councilmember for two years now. I've had an extremely busy year with many successes and a lot of irons in the fire. Here are a few:

- More sheriff deputies and a new Station! Eight new deputies and a sergeant have been assigned to provide 24/7 coverage for the first time ever in District 1. This will enable coverage of property crimes, more areas patrolled, and faster response to calls. The former church at 214<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 112<sup>th</sup> Street East will become the Sheriff's second station in District 1.
- County efficiency & budget control: As chair of the Performance Audit Committee I've reduced waste and reassigned resources to make the county operate better.
- Economic Development: Working for family wage jobs remains my top priority. I helped bring 80 good family wage jobs to Pierce County and I am working to make it easier for businesses to start up and grow here.
- Transportation: County population will increase by more than 200,000 by 2020. I'm leading the effort to improve county roads and regional highways to meet new demand.
- Schools out to lights out: Adult supervision and fun activities help keep kids busy and out of trouble. I've directed over \$200,000 to invest in our children in the District.
- Farmland Conservation: I'm working with farmers and the County Council to help preserve farmland, farms and farm families for future generations, while protecting property values.
- Lake Tapps: We're still negotiating to save the lake and to create a new drinking water source. I'm working to create a comprehensive boat management plan to keep the lake safe and fun.
- Foothills Trail: Approved funding and work plan to develop ten miles of paved trail between McMillin and South Prairie. More trails are under construction or being negotiated for purchase.
- Conservation Futures: See inside for update on proposed District 1 projects.

I'm interested in hearing from you so I've included a survey in this newsletter. Please take a minute to let me know what's important to you. Thanks for your support.

Working for you,

*Shawn Bunney*  
Shawn Bunney, Councilmember  
Pierce County Council, District 1



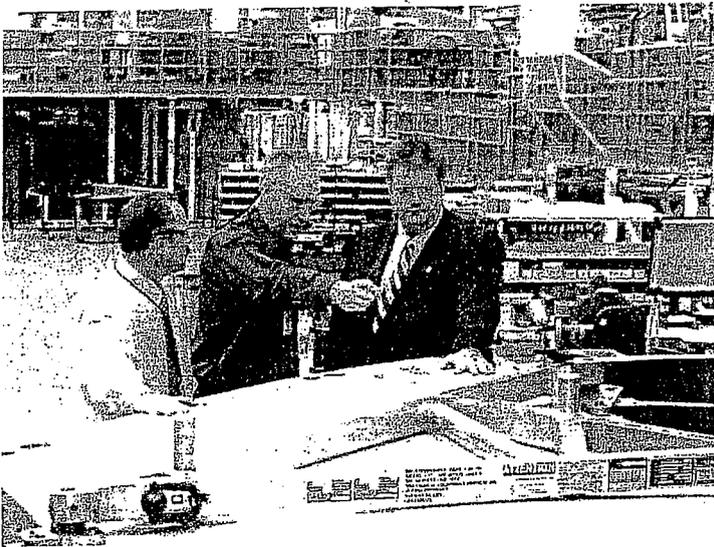
**Pierce County**

Office of the County Council

## Jobs — Pierce County's Top Priority

One of my main election promises was to make jobs Pierce County's top priority. Here's what I've been doing:

- I sponsored a study of job creation opportunities in Pierce County.
- I took the lead to move Pierce County's Office of Economic Development into downtown Tacoma with the Economic Development Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and the World Trade Center to better coordinate their efforts.
- The county's Economic Development group now reports directly to the County Executive, and staff were added to help businesses stay and grow.
- I led a business development team to Japan to meet with Toray Industries' top management. Toray has now committed to a \$30 million expansion in Pierce County to make materials for Boeing. That's about 80 new, long-term, family wage jobs.
- As chair of the Performance Audit Committee I initiated a study of the county's permitting process. The study offered 190 action steps to improve the permitting process so businesses can start and grow faster. In 2005 I will spearhead the effort to implement the recommendations.
- As chair of the Council's Economic & Infrastructure Development Committee I am working regionally to bring together city, county, and Port of Tacoma elected leaders to prioritize key economic development projects.
- I'm fighting for funding of essential jobs highways in Pierce County, including SR167 extension to Port of Tacoma, SR162 improvements, and the Cross-Base Highway. Next year I'll chair RTID, the regional effort to build new highways.



John Bzdel (center), Boeing 777 business unit leader for the Composite Manufacturing Center at Frederickson, discusses the efforts to reduce production costs and cycle time with site leader Mick Norris and Councilman Bunney.

## Jobs Highways

The highways we travel on are "Jobs Highways." They sustain every business and employee in Pierce County. They move incomes that pay taxes for Pierce County, its cities, towns, school districts, fire districts, parks and other services citizens want.

Our highways carried everything we own. Every product in every store we shop. The more it costs to move products over our highways, the more we pay to buy those products.

Almost 30 percent of Pierce County residents commute to jobs in King County. The condition of highways regionally impacts us directly. Degraded highways cost us billions. Economic development suffers because new and growing

*(Continued on page 4)*



Councilmember Bunney led a business development team to Japan and helped bring 80 jobs back to Pierce County.

## Making Performance Audits Work

I have continued as chair of the Performance Audit Committee in order to find ways to improve county operations. The committee completed three significant reports this year.

### Pre-Trial Services.

The audit found that Pre-Trial Services does not meet national standards, is over-staffed, and has many operational problems despite the abundance of staff. At my recommendation, the Council reduced this budget by more than \$400,000.

### Development Permitting Process.

This audit found a need for major reductions in lobby wait times and permit processing times. The report has 190 recommendations. The Council appropriated \$700,000 for consulting assistance and staff overtime to eliminate the backlog of permit applications. New and growing businesses ultimately will waste less time and money getting the permits necessary for them to build or expand their business.

### Pierce County Information Technology (IT).

This report found that Pierce County is doing a good job on IT issues.

See County audit reports at  
[www.co.pierce.wa.us/performance-audit](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/performance-audit)

## Foothills Trail

With my support Pierce County is developing a network of multi-use paths and trails throughout the County for the enjoyment of county citizens. Early this year the Council moved forward on bonding and a work plan.

In November a 3.3 mile Foothills Trail section and a 3.5 acre wetland were dedicated. The wetland was created to mitigate the trail project's environmental impacts. An adjoining rest stop and picnic area were made possible by a \$10,000 grant from Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI). This completes a ten + mile section of paved trail between McMillin and South Prairie.

Another 4.1 mile section of trail is now under construction between East Puyallup and McMillin. And Pierce County and the Town of Wilkeson are working together to build a 3,000 foot section of trail in town.

Progress continues toward final property acquisitions on the Buckley to South Prairie section and the Cascade Junction to Wilkeson/Carbonado sections. About 20 purchases are still needed to complete county ownership in these two pieces.

Funding for this project comes from state and federal funds, and Zoo/Trek sales tax.

## Preserving Farmland

How to preserve farmland in Pierce County became an important issue in this year's 10-year update of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan. State law requires the County to preserve farmlands of "long term commercial significance."

*Eighty-five percent of the remaining farmland in Pierce County is in Council District 1.*

As a first step, the County Council rezoned 31,000 acres of farmland this year to protect them from intensive development, including land in the Puyallup and Orting valleys. However, zoning itself will not save farming or produce more crops. This next year we will complete a Phase II study on the viability of farming in Pierce County to guide future decision-making. We will also be working to purchase development rights from farmers, to promote local farmers' markets, and to create agriculture district models through the Alderton/McMillin Community Plan. Stay tuned.

*"As an Eagle Boy Scout I learned to love the outdoors. I believe local government needs to buy land to protect and preserve for future generations."*

- Shawn Bunney



*Shawn with Milton Mayor Katrina Asay planting a tree in the West Milton Nature Preserve, a city-owned 2-1/4 acres bought with Conservation Futures dollars. The Friends of the Hylebos project included planting over 800 plants and trees to stabilize slopes and enhance the stream buffer.*

## Conservation Futures Projects in District 1

The Conservation Futures Fund is intended to provide a reliable and predictable source of funds to help preserve open space in Pierce County. Bonding the Conservation Futures Fund will allow Pierce County to lock up key parcels for future generations. Projects I have supported strongly in District 1 include:

### Carbon River Valley

Purchase of 452 acres for passive public recreation.

### Gateway Park

Purchase of 1 acre in Milton for a new park.

### Interurban Trail

Purchase of 37 acres in Milton, Edgewood and Pacific.

### Kapowsin

Purchase of 107 acres for a new rowing center at Lake Kapowsin.

### Marsh Project

Mt. Rainier Park Expansion - Purchase of 203 acres.

### Milltown Commons

Purchase of two parcels totaling 6 acres

### Orting Community Park

Purchase of easement on 50 acres.

### Rainier School

Purchase of timber rights to 620 acres.

### Soler Farms Development Rights

Purchase development rights to 96 acres of farmland.

### West Hylebos

Purchase of 2 acres of wetland habitat and passive recreation.

West Milton Nature Preserve - Purchase of 2 acres of wetland habitat.



**Pierce County**  
Office of the County Council

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**Councilmember**  
**SHAWN BUNNEY**

Pierce County Council, District 1  
930 Tacoma Ave. S., Room 1046  
Tacoma WA 98402



*Inside: An Update from your  
Pierce County Councilmember*  
**SHAWN BUNNEY**

*Shawn will be Chair of the Pierce County Council in 2005. This leadership role will ensure that District 1 is well-represented in all Council initiatives.*

*Jobs Highways*

*(Continued from page 2)*

businesses won't move to where road systems are deteriorating. I believe that bad highways cost us more than fixing them.

For all these reasons I have agreed to become chair of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) next year. Made up of Pierce, King and Snohomish counties, RTID's assignment is to identify regional highway projects and propose funding to put on the ballot.

I'm also agreeing to chair RTID so I can make sure Pierce County receives its share of improvements (including SR167 extension to the Port of Tacoma, SR167 HOV lanes, widening SR162, and the Cross-Base Highway), and to make sure that money raised in Pierce County stays in Pierce County.

This is a monumental job in a time when most people don't want to pay more for anything. But we'll pay more if we do nothing. I believe that elected officials have the responsibility to try to find ways to get the job done. That's what I plan to do.

**What's most important to your family?**

Please take the time to share your priorities and return this section to the address below or email me your thoughts. Thank you in advance for your input. I hope to hear from you soon and in the months ahead.

*Please check your top three issues:*

- Economic Development
- Farmland Retention
- Health Issues
- Parks & Trails
- Performance Audits
- Property Rights
- Public Safety
- Roads/Traffic congestion
- Rural Lifestyle
- Other

Return by mail to: Councilmember Shawn Bunney  
930 Tacoma Avenue S., Room 1046,  
Tacoma WA 98402-2176  
Or e-mail sbunney@co.pierce.wa.us



**Pierce County**

Office of the County Council



**Councilmember  
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*Inside: 2006 Update from your  
Pierce County Councilmember*

**SHAWN BUNNEY**

**Economic Development**

In 2006 Shawn continued his commitment to implement performance audit recommendations to enhance economic development in Pierce County. The council added five new positions to the county Planning and Land Services department to help expedite the building permit process and eliminate backlog. The backlog is being reduced, and the council remains committed to helping the department reach its goal of 20-minute wait times.

**Shawn has worked to keep his promise to support senior citizens**

- 2005: Started the voucher program to enable 250 seniors on limited incomes to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers' markets
- 2006: Expanded the voucher program to feed 2,200 seniors.
- 2006: Funded delivery of boxes of produce to the homes of more than 400 qualified senior citizens who lack mobility.
- 2007: Increased funding to \$71,000 for District 1 senior centers. Fought for the money, more than doubling the County Executive's proposed budget.
- 2007: Council funded \$225,000 for a combination of farmers' market vouchers and produce delivery boxes for the next three years, continuing the successful partnership of seniors and farmers.



# 2006 Update From Your Pierce County Councilmember

## SHAWN BUNNEY

Volume III, December 29, 2006

### SHAWN BUNNEY

Councilmember,  
District 1

Member:

Rules Committee

Performance Audit  
Committee

Economic & Infrastructure  
Development Committee

#### To contact Shawn:

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sbunney@co.pierce.wa.us

#### Office of the Pierce County Council:

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Room 1046  
Tacoma WA 98402-2176  
(253) 798-7777  
FAX (253) 798-7509  
TDD (253) 798-4018  
1-800-992-2456

Dear Neighbor,

I'm starting my second four-year term as your District 1 county councilmember. No one chose to oppose me in the recent election; I hope that means I'm doing a good job for you. I thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

For the second year in a row I served as council chairman. The chairmanship helped me keep the county's focus on public safety, government accountability, economic development, and quality of life - without raising taxes. And we were able to put \$20 million into the general fund as savings for when the economy worsens.

Much of what the council does involves our quality of life. About 10,000 people move into Pierce County each year. We have two choices to address this inevitable population growth: prepare for it, or don't.

If we don't prepare, increased competition will continue to raise our home assessments and taxes, roads will be busier and wear out faster, crime will increase, and workers will have to commute to other counties for jobs.

I don't like that scenario. I believe in preparing for these new neighbors. I am working within Pierce County and regionally to plan highway and road projects for you to vote on. I am working on zoning that allows for more homes in defined areas while retaining farms, creating parks, and protecting the forests and other aspects of nature we love.

Finding the balance that prepares for the future while maintaining and enhancing our quality of life is an ongoing challenge. We all have different opinions as to where that balance is. I want to thank you who care enough to read this newsletter, and those who participate in their county and city activities. Without your involvement and caring, our job as elected officials would be even more difficult, and less successful.

Thanks for your support.

Working for you,

Shawn Bunney, Chairman  
Pierce County Council  
District 1



Pierce County

Office of the County Council

## Saving Family Farms

Pierce County can't afford to lose any more family farms.

We already lost more than 80,000 acres of prime farmland from 1987 to 1997, and farmers continue today to accept lucrative buyout offers from developers.

Other farmers sell their land because they grow tired of navigating the county's permitting process or having to go to multiple places for assistance.

Now there's a new tool to help farms. For the first time, there will be a central point of contact for all farming issues in Pierce County: the Farming Assistance, Revitalization and Marketing program (FARM).

Central to the FARM program is the creation of a "Farmbudsman," a farming advocate who will work full time to help the farming community navigate county red tape and connect farmers with the right support agencies.

Second, a 798-FARM assistance phone line puts farmers, restaurateurs and the general public in touch with agencies and instant information.

Third, a new Farm Advisory Board replaces and expands the existing Farm Advisory Commission. Finally, the Food and Farms Connection program will put farmers

in touch with consumers by marketing locally grown produce and providing contact information for local farms.

Standing by and watching our agricultural heritage slip away is not an option. We owe it to future generations to ensure that roadside stands and pumpkin patches remain a reality instead of becoming just another memory.

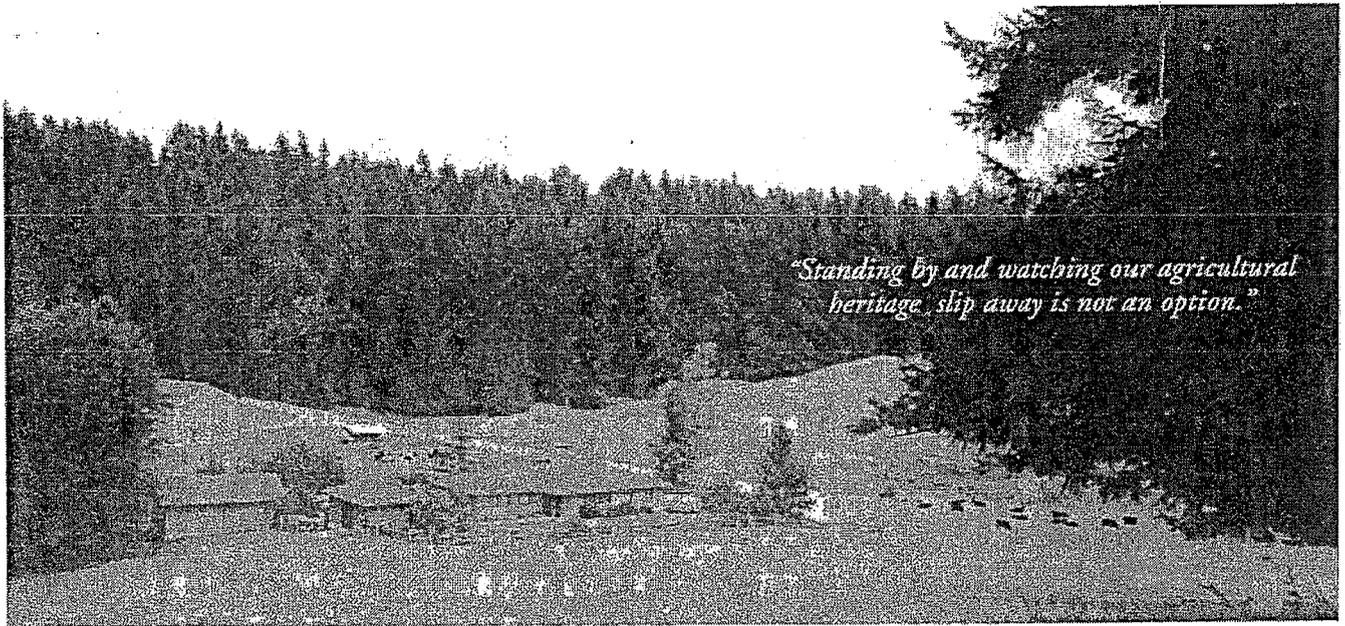
## Our Highways and Jobs

Our economic well-being and our highways are inextricably linked. Degraded highways are an insidious fuel and time tax that each of us pays every day. Bad highways cost us more than fixing them will.

That's primarily why I agreed to be Chairman of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) the past two years. Made up of Pierce, King and Snohomish counties, RTID's assignment is to identify regional highway projects and propose funding to put on your ballot in 2007.

I am chairing RTID also to ensure that our district's road needs are represented, and to make sure that money raised in Pierce County stays in Pierce County.

We need road systems that work efficiently. I'm working to make our area a better place to live, and good roads are an important part of that picture.



*"Standing by and watching our agricultural heritage slip away is not an option."*

### Financial Accountability

Pierce County's \$869.7 million budget allocates 2007 revenue and spending mainly for unincorporated Pierce County and its population of more than 355,000. It is composed of the \$269.2 million general fund - which pays for most county services with revenue from property and sales taxes and fees - and a host of other largely self-supporting funds.

The bulk of the spending is through the county executive departments. Historically it has been difficult for the council to keep on top of spending to the extent it wants.

Starting in 2007 county departments are required to give the council more detailed financial reports before beginning projects that may have fluctuating price tags.

### Saving For A Rainy Day

The General fund balance is projected to be \$20 million higher than expenditures next year. Now that economic times are good, this Council put money away for when they aren't.

### State Dumping Felons in Pierce County

Pierce County convicts almost as many felons as gigantic King County!! A major reason is that the state saturates Pierce County with convicts released from state prisons, even though the convicts came from other counties.

Over the years the state has set up a disproportionate number of its prison release programs in Pierce County. No matter where the criminal came from, once the person enters a program or commits a crime in Pierce County the state counts that person as a Pierce County resident. When a new crime is committed, it's counted as Pierce County recidivism.

The most effective way to fight recidivism is to keep the state's worst convicts from being introduced into Pierce County in the first place. That costs a lot less than hiring more deputies, judges, prosecutors, and corrections officers to send them back to prison. Convicted felons should be sent back to their original county when they are released.

I'll be working with the county Prosecuting Attorney to keep the state's worst convicts from being introduced into Pierce County. We already have more than our share.



*Shawn helped accept the 2006 Cascade Agenda Leadership Award from the Cascade Land Conservancy on behalf of the county council for helping bond funding for the acquisition of more than 1000 acres of farm, forest and open space in Pierce County. Shawn "exhibited true environmental leadership."*

### Public Safety Increases

Public safety and judicial services account for nearly 74 percent of the county's general fund spending.

For 2007 the council funded three new detectives and one new patrol deputy for the sheriff's department, as well as 12 corrections officers that will allow the opening of a new 80-inmate housing unit (pod) at the county jail.

### New Park on the Plateau

We're getting a new 80-acre regional county park in the Bonney Lake area. The property is part of a three-way land exchange between the county, White River School District and a developer.

East Pierce County is growing rapidly. The need for a regional county park is great, and the site at 128th Street East and 198th Avenue is ideal.

The design process has already begun. Because I want the park in operation as soon as possible I've made sure that \$1.9 million is already identified for initial design and development.

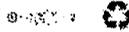


**Pierce County**  
Office of County Council



**Councilmember**  
**SHAWN BUNNEY**

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*Inside: 2007 Update from your  
Pierce County Councilmember*  
**SHAWN BUNNEY**

**2008 Budget**

Children's programs and public safety were this year's focus. The council reduced other areas to fund these vital programs without raising taxes, for a no-net-increase budget.

Funding of a new Superior Court judge was accelerated by three months to help address a growing case backlog. Two sheriff's deputies were added. Funds were restored to help neighbors band together to prevent crime. The Council asked the Sheriff to begin planning for a new jail and to propose more alternatives to incarceration.

For kids, the council increased funding for United Way Early Learning, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Community Health Care, which is building its new clinic in the Salishan neighborhood. Parks & Recreation Services was funded to provide activities for children with developmental disabilities.

**LOST IN PIERCE COUNTY PARKS!!!!**

Shawn has lost 100 pounds in 2007, walking almost every trail and park in Pierce County!



Shawn Bunney and Congressman Dave Reichert discuss federal funding for parks and trails.

## A Letter To The Governor

I sent this letter to Governor Gregoire on November 28 to help keep Seattle hands out of Pierce County wallets for road repair.

Dear Governor Gregoire,

Among the reasons I agreed to chair RTID were the desire to ensure that Pierce County projects were selected for their economic impact, to make sure that taxes raised in Pierce County stayed in Pierce County, and to provide leadership for our region in putting forward funding answers to regional road congestion.

Thanks in large part to King County Executive Ron Sims and the Seattle Times, voters were led to believe there is a better way to fund regional transportation. I am telling Pierce County taxpayers **HOLD ON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS!**

I am sure that before voters went to bed on election night some Seattle legislators were busy ramping up for another raid of the region's road funds. . . funds they say are for a \$4.4 billion "Safety" project called the 520 Bridge.

This is the same group that siphoned \$700 million in gas taxes out of Pierce County in the past fifteen years.

We heard this story yet again in 2006 when the same Seattle interests took almost \$400 million out of Pierce County wallets to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct; a viaduct, it turns out, not wanted by Seattle because it blocks the view.

To say that the 520 Bridge is a "Safety" project does not accurately portray the planned gold-plated entrances to the Emerald City and Clyde Hill/Medina. Current plans include \$100 million for bike and pedestrian lanes, \$250 million for five new parks created to muffle bridge noise, \$700-\$800 million for parks and lids on the east side of the lake, and a 50% capacity increase. The only thing missing is a giant archway from which trumpets can blare as Ron Sims enters and exits Seattle.

The scene is set for another contrived feeding frenzy in the legislature, which will leave Pierce County with crumbs.

I am hoping you see the advantage of thinking independently of the Seattle-centric view of the world.

As RTID chair over these years I have heard all there is about every prospective project advocated in the tri-county region. Of all the projects brought before RTID I believe the project with the most potential is SR 167.

Governor, Washington State needs a fully funded SR 167 jobs project. Extending SR 167 to the Port of Tacoma will create 80,000 new jobs regionally. That road that currently ends in a corn field in Puyallup absolutely needs to be extended to the Port of Tacoma where it can boost the economy of the entire state.

The SR 167 extension is a legacy project.

No other construction project in the state offers 80,000 new jobs.

No other industry in the state anticipates 80,000 new jobs.

No other Governor in memory has had the opportunity to lock in 80,000 virtually guaranteed new jobs.

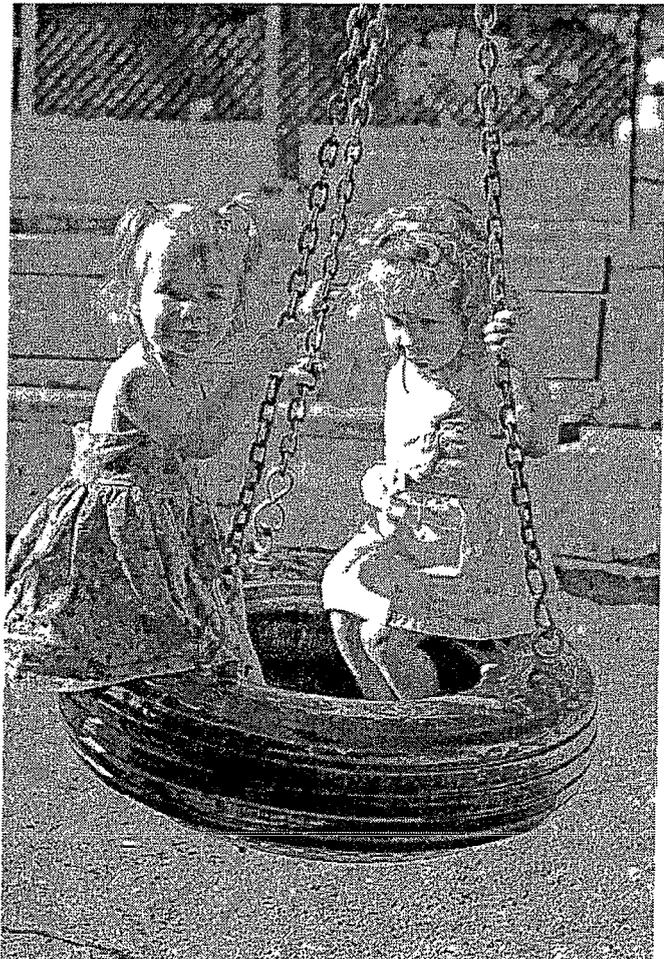
This is a once-in-a-career opportunity to impact generations of Washingtonians.

Governor, let's talk. We can meet one on one. If you prefer, I can bring a delegation of business owners, investors, and port officials. But with all due respect I am putting you on notice that Pierce County will not accept its tax dollars being ripped off yet again to pay for King County parks and 520 Bridge bike and pedestrian projects. Every political candidate and every elected official at every level in every possible public venue will be asked if they support SR 167 and the 80,000 new jobs the project offers.

We need to meet sooner, not later. SR 167 needs to be on the top of your list of priorities. Hopefully 80,000 new jobs are right up there for you also. Let's work together to make it happen.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Bunney, Pierce County Council

## Schools Out to Lights Out



As your county councilmember I have been able to allocate almost \$500,000 to programs in District 1 that provide fun, adult-supervised activities. The following is taken from a letter I wrote to The News Tribune.

*"Dear Editor:*

*Your 11/26 editorial accused the county council of "saking care of pet causes in their home districts" despite a tight county budget.*

*I accept responsibility for the "Schools Out to Lights Out" program in District 1. Funding programs to keep kids busy and supervised has been one of my basic campaign promises since I first ran in 2002.*

*I believe providing fun, adult-supervised activities helps keep kids out of trouble after school. Studies show that partnering kids with positive adult role models reduces the likelihood of future criminal activity. This money is an investment in our future.*

*I not only got Schools Out to Lights Out funded for my district again, the council budget also increased money for kids.... (in many other areas).*

*The council made reductions in other areas so we can fund these vital programs without raising taxes. This is a no-net-increase budget.*

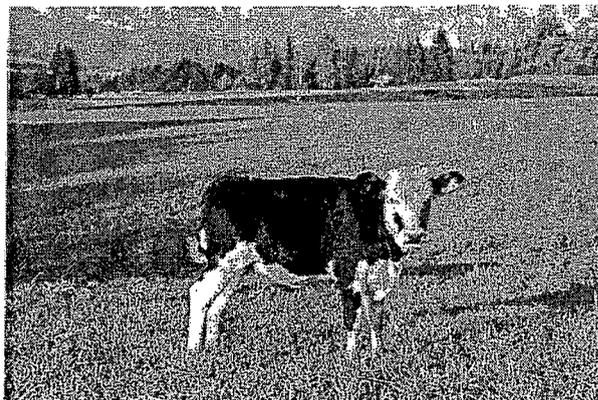
## Protecting Open Spaces: Transfer of Development Rights

The new Transfer Development Rights conservation program I co-sponsored will save farmland. It enables farmers and other property owners to sell development rights to their property without having to develop it.

Developers who buy those rights get credits so they can increase the density of building projects in urban areas.

This new, market-driven program will allow sale or transfer of the development rights, allowing financial gain. But instead of being developed, the property would be set aside for conservation.

Supporters hailed the conservation Program as a milestone.



# 2007 Update From Your Pierce County Councilmember



Volume IV, December, 2007

## SHAWN BUNNEY

Councilmember,  
District 1

Member:

Rules Committee

Economic & Infrastructure  
Development Committee

Select Committee on  
Emergency Preparedness

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Dear Neighbor,

Where has the year gone? Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District 1 County Councilmember. As always there is a lot going on at the county.

Schools Out to Lights Out. Adult supervision and fun activities keep kids busy and out of trouble. I've allocated almost \$500,000 for District 1 kids over the years. Read my letter to The News Tribune editor about it.

Transportation. HOLD ON TO YOUR POCKETBOOKS!! Read my letter to Governor Gregoire about keeping Seattle out of Pierce County wallets now that the roads and transit package was voted down.

Protecting Open Space. I co-sponsored a new conservation program to save farmland. Farmers and other property owners can sell development rights to their property. Developers who buy those rights get credits if they build in urban areas.

LOST IN PIERCE COUNTY PARKS!!!! See "Parks and Trails".

Lake Tapps. Many people continue to work on a solution to ensure the survival of a healthy Lake Tapps. This has been a long process, but we won't stop until an acceptable solution is found.

2008 Budget. Kids and public safety were the focus. We reduced other areas to fund children's programs and public safety without raising taxes, for a no-net-increase budget.

Thanks for your support.

Working for you,

Shawn Bunney,  
Pierce County Council  
District 1



Pierce County

Office of County Council