



DRAFT

Possible Guiding Principles for 2010 County Budget

June 9, 2009

General

1. Job creation and economic development are the County Council's highest priorities.
2. Discretionary funding (those items not mandated by state law or county code) should be reduced first and to the fullest extent possible.
3. Polling sites will remain open.
4. There will be no additional use of the unreserved general fund balance in the 2010 budget.
5. There will be no additional use of the unreserved general fund balance in 2009.
6. No miscellaneous current expense items to outside groups other than those that are essential to public health and safety (i.e. domestic violence and senior centers).
7. All fees other than PALS, should increase no more than the rate of inflation or remain steady.
8. The budget should include a list of grants that are anticipated to be received in 2010 and should include an analysis of how each grant is advancing county policy.
9. No grants should be accepted that create a funding obligation for the county beyond the grant period.
10. Charges paid to all internal service funds (i.e. Fleet Rental, IT, Self-Insurance Fund) shall be reduced or stay flat in 2010.
11. Planning and Land Services, the Assessor-Treasurer and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) should explore areas of cooperation and areas where cost efficiencies could be realized.
12. Funding for Government Relations activities at 2009 levels to monitor and advocate for Pierce County's best interests.

Public Works and Utilities

13. The transfer of County Road Fund dollars shall be no higher than the level approved in the 2009 budget (\$2.5 million)

14. Public Works and Utilities should substantially reduce funding for planning for projects that do not have an identified funding source beyond the next six years.

PALS

15. Planning and land services should align its staffing to the requirements of state law and to the level of permitting anticipated in 2010.

Public Safety

16. Priority should be made to funding personnel that have direct contact with the public.
17. Funding should be adequate to ensure 24/7 patrol coverage county-wide and full funding of twelve Neighborhood Patrol Deputies.

Parks

18. Efforts should be made to find funding alternatives for parks and recreation facilities, especially those that are within the boundaries of a city or park district.
19. Eliminate or drastically reduce expenditures on recreational programming.

Performance Audit

20. The Performance Audit office should be funded at a level that will support its 2010 work plan.