State of Washington Counties Report Deep Dive

County Leaders Conference
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Where to dive in

1
Identify priorities

Priority topics for deeper analysis, **opportunities for continued learning**, and ways to make future reports most useful

2
Share insights

Your perspectives on the **fiscal health, governance and challenges** facing counties

3
Put findings to work

Support county leaders and policymakers, and **strengthen understanding of county government**

On the horizon for WA counties.

ARPA funds run out

COVID recovery (ARPA) funds must be spent by the end of 2026.

Public defense mandates

New caseload standards took effect in January 2026, to be fully met within 10 years.

Sales tax losses

Changes would exempt more items starting in 2029, reducing local revenue, if upheld in court.

Falling fuel tax

Revenue is declining as vehicles get more fuel efficient and more drivers switch to electric.

Sources: U.S. Treasury, SLFRF Final Rule; WA Supreme Court Order No. 25700-A-1644 (June 2025) and clarifying order 25700-A-1671 (Nov. 2025); SB 6346 (2026); WA Transportation Economic and Revenue Forecast Council; SAO FIT (EPIC analysis).

Identifying Priorities

Priority topics for deeper analysis, **opportunities for continued learning**, and ways to make future reports most useful

Which of the areas we outlined would be most useful to you as we deepen this analysis?

What are we not yet considering about these areas?

What additional information, data, or resources would make future reports more valuable?

Sharing Insights

Your perspectives on the **fiscal health, governance and challenges** facing counties

What findings most resonated with your county's experience?

What findings surprised you?

What important context or examples about your county might be missing?

Putting Findings to Work

Support county leaders and policymakers, and **strengthen understanding of county government**

How could you envision using this report and the findings in your work?

What information is most valuable for state policymakers?

How do you envision WSAC using this report to support your county?

Thank you!

Reach out to learn more about the project and partnership opportunities.

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