

***From the desk of the County Administrator  
Gregory B. Murray***

Thank you for taking the time to visit this page. As County government moves forward in today's climate, it is the intent of my staff and me to continue to improve on the services we provide. We will strive to serve you, the public; in a manner that reflects our commitment to the quality of life in Washington County.

Your County government is a mix of services and programs designed to adequately maintain and/or support the needs of our citizens. This includes public safety operations such as police, fire, and emergency medical services; public education; infrastructure such as roads, utilities, and waste disposal; social programs that support community needs; economic development initiatives; and services such as building inspections, land use planning, and even snow removal. While County government requires funding from sources such as income and property taxes to provide these services, the efficient operation of our organization is essential to maintaining our quality of life, and is a substantial return on the investment each of us makes in our County. As such, it is the goal of all of our 688 dedicated full-time employees to maximize these operations while minimizing costs. This is not always an easy task, and takes adequate financial resources, but it is my goal to continue to find ways to improve on the efficiency of County government operations. There are several areas that we are currently exploring to try and find better solutions for our community. They include recycling and solid waste disposal programs, environmental initiatives, long-term planning challenges, and even improvement of administrative operations. In addition, we continue to provide parks, recreational programs, and public services for the enjoyment and use of us all. Your support is essential in helping us as we provide these services, and to us becoming an even better government operation. I invite you to explore the services County government provides, and to become involved in the opportunities that are available to help us achieve our goals.

As we manage County government in a way that provides an opportunity for continuous improvement, we have had several changes as we move forward. First, we have a new Board of County Commissioners, working together as usual to better our County. I am new as County Administrator, and am managing County government operations and insuring that Commissioner objectives are moved forward. We also have a new Public Works Director, Director of Environmental Management, Director of Special Projects, and Human Resources Director. While we did not add positions, we did restructure, and are well positioned with new ideas and enthusiasm to help move the County forward.

As we face new and increasing challenges in the future, such as funding for school construction, environmental challenges limiting our long-term flexibility, and rising costs, I ask that each of you feel free to participate in helping us address these challenges and finding solutions. It is my intention to provide a bridge between our citizens, municipalities, and County government so that we can cooperatively support the needs in our County. Working together, we can insure that the benefits of our County are preserved for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.