



Pierce County Council

Rick Talbert

District 5 News



Representing the communities of Midland, North Clover Creek/Collins, Parkland, Spanaway, Summit View, Summit-Waller, Tacoma's Eastside and South End

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you're enjoying the nice weather we've been having as spring continues to draw closer to summer. There are a multitude of recreational opportunities in Pierce County – from hiking, biking or jogging to swimming, boating and [enjoying our wonderful parks](#) and I sincerely hope you and your family can get out and enjoy them.

You may have heard that I recently underwent kidney surgery. It was an uncertain time to be sure, but I am still serving on your behalf at the Pierce County Council. I am in constant contact with my office in Tacoma and I'll continue working for you while recuperating. I should be back in the office in no time and thanks to all of you for your prayers and wishes for good health!

Getting your input and feedback is a top priority for me as it helps me do my job better. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments, questions and concerns about county issues. My door is always open and I hope to hear from you soon.

It remains my highest honor and privilege to represent you.

Sincerely,

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CONTACT ME

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For more information go to:
piercecountywa.org/council

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P.S. Please note that, due to election-year restrictions, this will be the last e-newsletter you will receive until after November 30th. If you know someone in our district who might like to receive these, please feel free to forward this e-mail and have them contact me.

New Sheriff's precinct will keep our communities safer

In 2012, the Pierce County Council voted to spend \$2 million to open a Sheriff's Department precinct in the Parkland-Spanaway area. The funding we allocated paid for two building renovations, and the Sheriff's Department is preparing to assign 35 deputies from other areas to the new precinct in what had become unincorporated Pierce County's highest crime area.

The new precinct is nearly ready to open its doors for business. Because public safety is one of my top concerns, I believe the money spent on the new precinct is a wise investment in the future of Pierce County and reflects the right priorities of its residents.

[You can see a detailed map of current precinct boundaries here.](#)



Traffic Improvements will lead to safer roads, better options

For those of you who commute out of the district each day, you understand the value of having safe streets and improved intersections to keep traffic flowing. Roadwork on 112th was officially completed a few months ago. It was six years in the making.

County engineers removed several four-way stop intersections and replaced them with stoplights to improve the flow of traffic. The county also put in sidewalks on both sides of the street for most of it to improve pedestrian safety. I know many of you use that arterial every day and are pleased to see progress being made with roads in our neighborhoods.

All of us on the Pierce County Council are very interested in duplicating this kind of success throughout the county, and will be focusing on other roads in our area such as 128th and 138th.

If there is a particular traffic area that concerns you, please contact my office to report it.

Land use and code enforcement among most common concerns

Of all the issues and concerns about which my office gets contacted, by far the largest number has to do with land use and code enforcement. Residents are either concerned about what they can do with their property or they want to report what someone else is doing with theirs.

Fortunately there are [a number of resources available](#) that will make it easier to find whatever you're looking for, such as:

- Online [permitting](#) and [property](#) information;
- Where to access [public records](#) and [recorded documents](#);
- [Road construction and other transportation improvement projects](#);
- Proposed [County Council legislation](#) and public meetings;
- [Sewer bill](#), [property tax](#) and [traffic fine](#) payments
- [Flood](#) and other [emergency warning systems](#); and
- [Sex offender tracking](#).

Caring for the disabled, low-income seniors in Pierce County

We do everything we can to support the disadvantaged members of our community. That's why I was so pleased the County Council recently passed a measure that creates exemptions in monthly sewer charges for seniors, disabled and low-income individuals.

Pierce County Ordinance 2013-68s is something I had been working on for several years before it finally passed into law. State law authorizes counties to provide assistance to low-income seniors and the disabled, and our own Public Works and Utilities Department provided recommendations about how to establish such a discount. I'm proud to report that the low-income senior and disabled sewer rate discount will become effective January 1, 2015.

Additionally, with the help of the county executive, we've been able to add funding to support multiple senior centers around Pierce County. It's often said that a society can be judged by how well it treats its most vulnerable, and I believe it's imperative that we keep the doors open.

Budget: At a Glance

The Pierce County general fund budget for the year 2014 is \$271,095,840.



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