

# Road Map to Washington's future



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE  
WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
 EXTENSION

**W**

# Washington State in 2017

With 7.3 million people, Washington has the second largest population west of the Rockies  
At 1,362 square miles, Washington is second smallest state west of the Rockies





Washington has very diverse physical and economic geographies




# Washington has experienced dramatic growth over the last 25 years

- From 1990 to 2016, our state's population grew by 2.5 million
- The combined population of today's three largest cities is 1.1 million

 = 686,800

 = 214,500

 = 206,100  
1,107,400

- The 2.5 M people added over the past 25 years is greater than:



Our state is now growing at its fastest pace since 2007



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

*Insurance Building, PO Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 • (360) 902-0555*

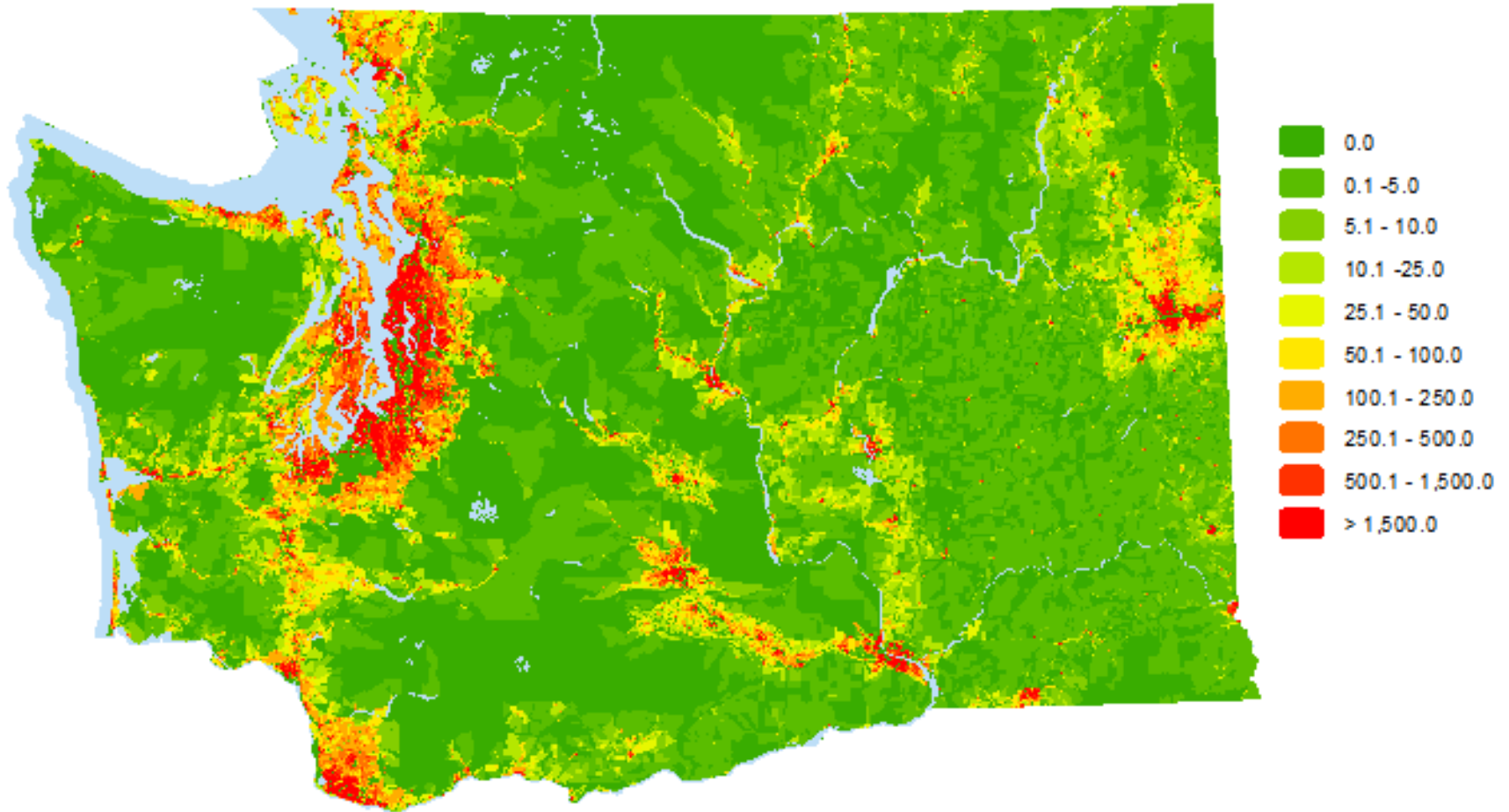
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 30, 2016

**CONTACT:** Yi Zhao, 360-902-0592

## **Washington's population grows at fastest pace since 2007**

**OLYMPIA, WA** – Washington's population grew by an estimated **1.73 percent** over the past year — the largest percentage increase since 2007. The number of people in the state increased by 122,300 to 7,183,700, according to annual estimates prepared by the Office of Financial Management.

# Population and jobs are unevenly spread across the state



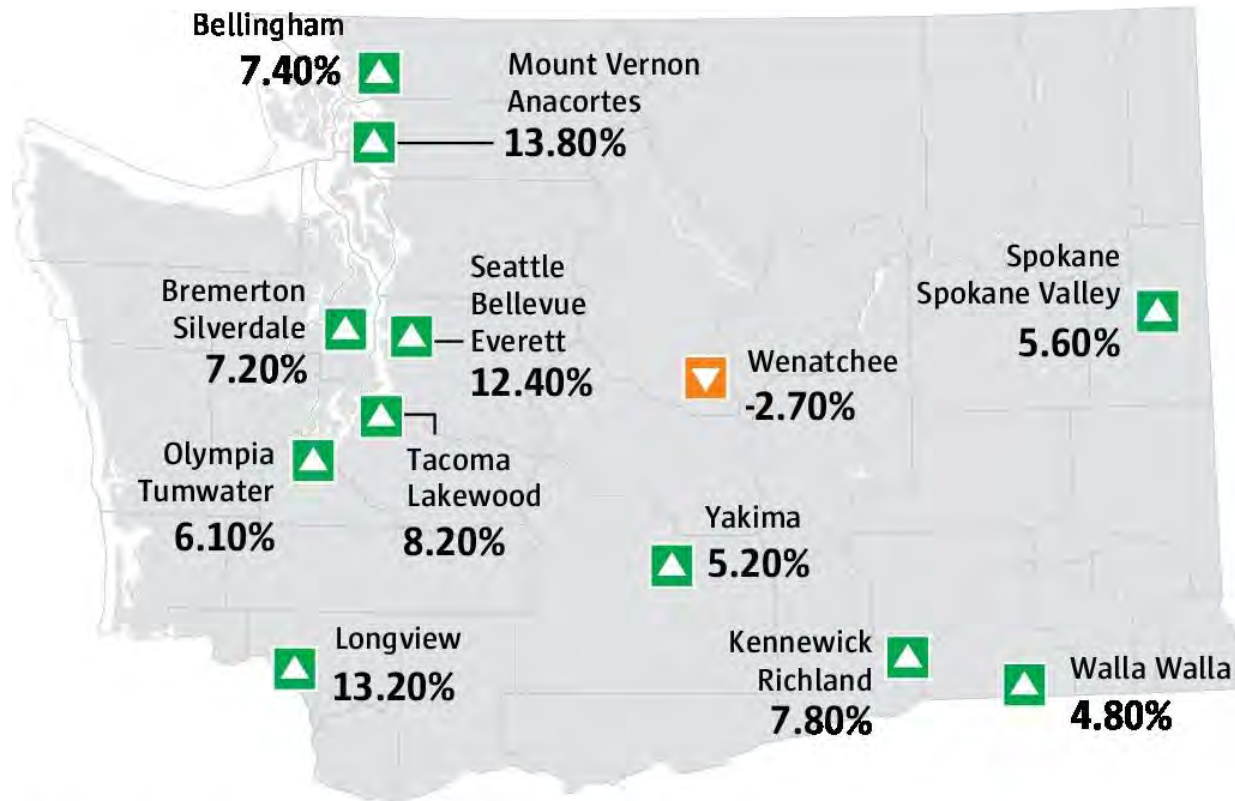
## Issues related to ongoing growth and the accelerating pace of change manifest in calls for legislative action in Olympia

- Since 1990, the legislature has made amendments to the Growth Management Act, Shoreline Management Act or State Environmental Policy Act almost every session.
- In the 2016 session, over 70 bills related to the GMA or other land use statutes were proposed. None passed.
- In the 2017 session, GMA bills have been introduced dealing with ground water allocation, school siting in the rural area, the supply of buildable lands, environmental impact statements, and manufactured housing.

# Housing affordability is a shared statewide issue

## Home prices soaring across the state

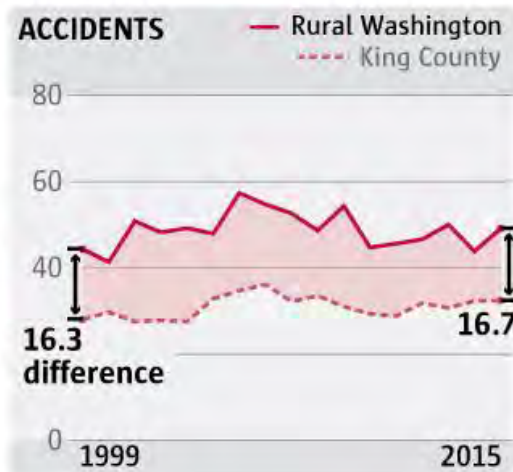
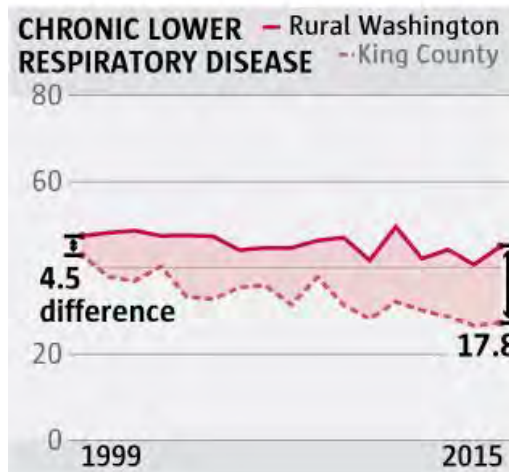
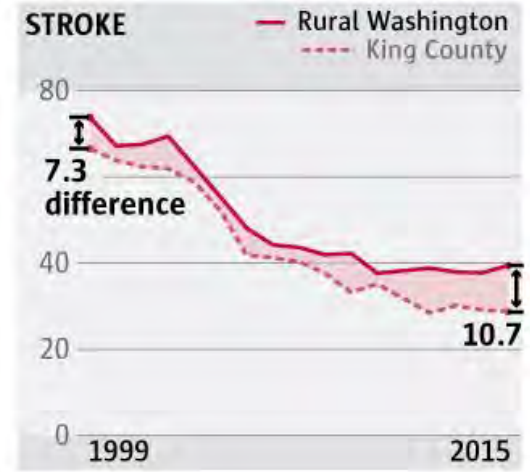
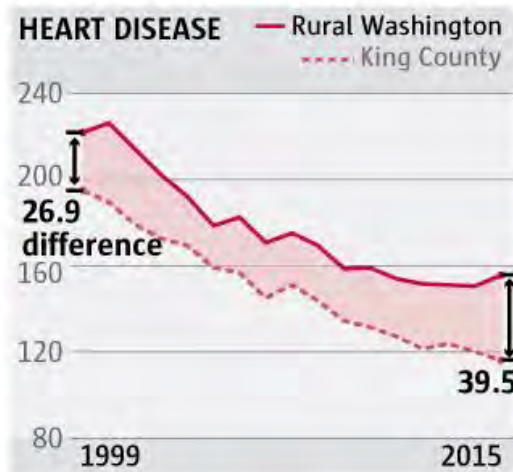
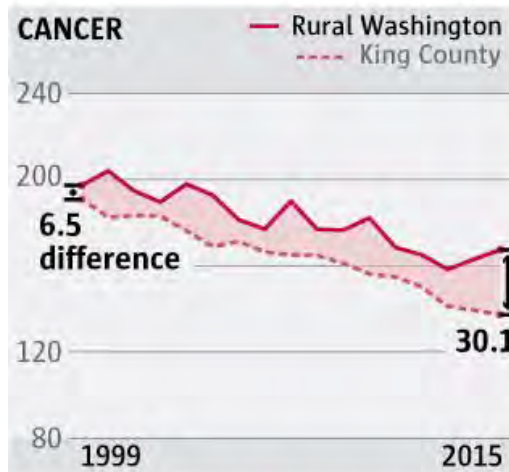
11 of these 12 metro areas in Washington saw home prices rise compared with a year ago, some by almost 14 percent.



Source: CoreLogic housing-price index for April

Likewise, although distinct regional differences exist, public health is a statewide issue

## Urban-rural gap in death rates growing



# Looking forward – the challenge of future dramatic growth

In 2016, OFM projected that over the next 25 years our state would add:

+100,000 (low estimate)

+1.6 million (medium estimate)

+3.5 million (high estimate)

The low estimate of an additional 100,000 people has already been surpassed

Adding 3.5 million people by 2040, would be equivalent to adding:



# Washington's existing legal framework

## REVISED CODE Of WASHINGTON



GMA

OTHER PLANNING LAWS

GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS  
AND REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATE CONSTITUTION

U.S. CONSTITUTION

Growth Management Act – RCW 36.70A

Planning Enabling Act – RCW 36.70

Shoreline Management Act – RCW 90.58

State Environmental Policy Act – RCW 43.21

Local Project Review Act – RCW 36.70B

Subdivision Statute – RCW 58.17

Water System Coordination Act – RCW 70.116

Local Governance – RCW 35, 35A, 36

Regional Planning – RCW 47.80

State, regional, local revenue authority

At first glance – the framework of laws and institutions  
may appear to fit together as a coherent whole



The reality – the framework is a disjointed jumble of laws and institutions with gaps, conflicts and ambiguities



Which way to the future?





# Road Map Project

In 2016, the legislature asked the Ruckelshaus Center to propose a process to address the challenges of growth and change.

The Center prepared a draft “Road Map to the Future” and reviewed it with dozens of people and organizations.

## **Two-phase approach:**

Phase 1 –Preliminary Assessment - 9/16 through 6/17

Phase 2 – Deep conversations with participants, public vision forums and research with university partners - 7/17 through 6/19



## Project approach and scope

- Collaborate on a coherent and positive vision for our state's future
- Assess the effectiveness of our statutory and institutional framework to reach that future
- Identify gaps, ambiguities and conflicts within that framework
- Seek agreement to support potential reforms for action in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions



## Phase I – Pre-Assessment

**Timeframe:** August 2016 through June 2017

**Steps:** Background research, interviews, presentation(s)

**Deliverables:** Report, presentation(s)

### **Identify and refine:**

- Scope of issues, statutes and institutions to assess
- Areas of potential agreement
- Potential interests, participants, champions
- Resources, expertise, partners
- A collaborative Phase II process



## Phase II – Comprehensive Assessment and Road Map

**Timeframe:** July 2017 through June 2019+

### **Steps:**

- Public Visioning Workshops across the state
- Deep and candid interviews with identified groups
- Targeted baseline research with university partners
- Periodic updates and presentations to participants
- Reports to the legislature on areas of agreement/potential action

### **Objectives:**

- Engage resources and expertise to articulate a shared vision
- Summarize areas of potential agreement
- Identify actions that could serve compelling state interests while allowing for unique regional circumstances and priorities



# The Center would engage interests from every sector and every corner of the state, including:



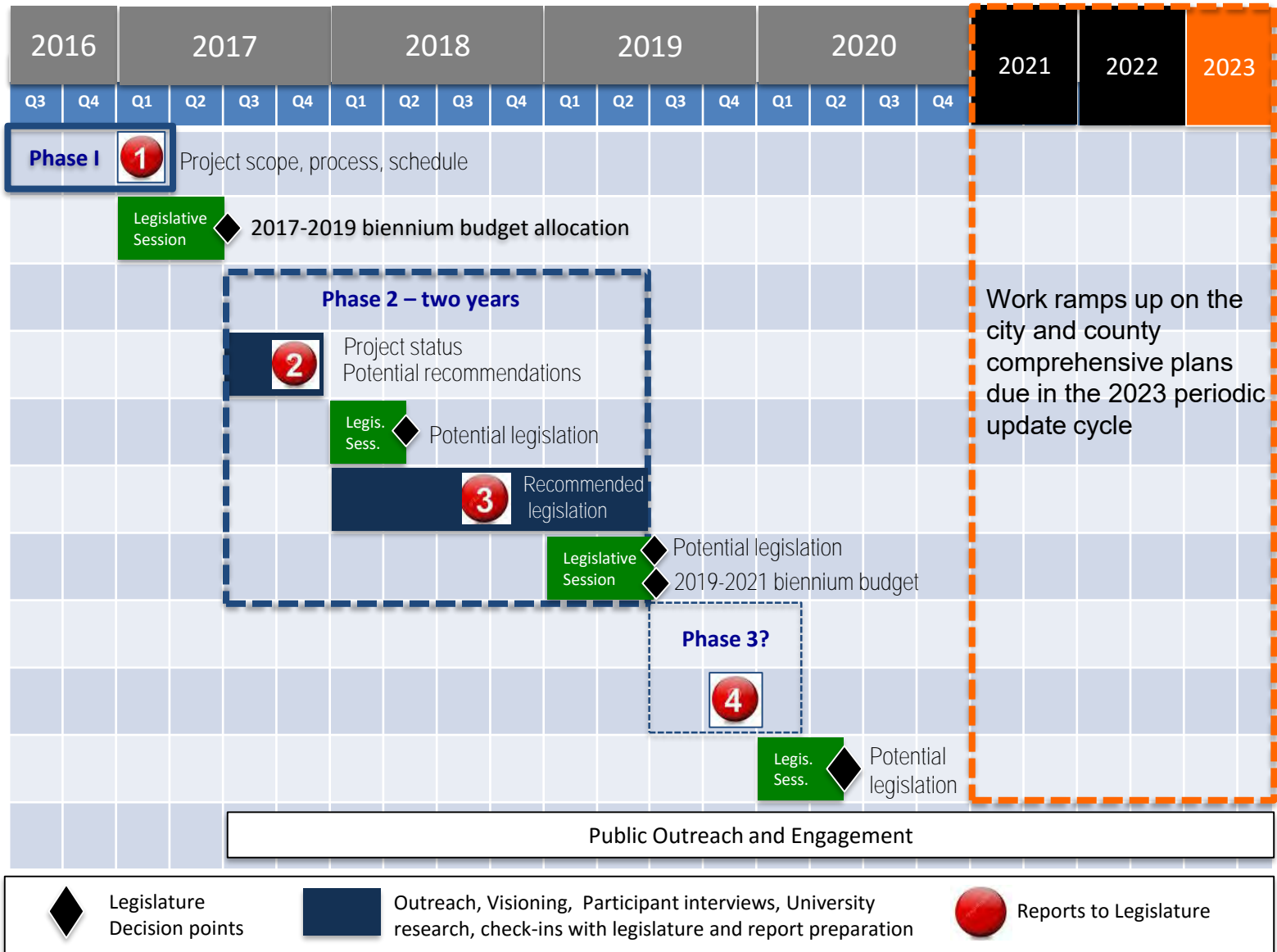
Association of Washington Business  
Association of Washington Cities  
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
Building Industry Association of Washington  
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway  
Centers for Disease Control  
Citizens Alliance for Property Rights  
Futurewise  
Master Builders of King and Snohomish Counties  
Quinault Indian Nation  
Washington Chapter, American Planning Association  
Washington Public Health Association  
Washington Public Ports Association  
Washington Sewer and Water Districts Association  
Washington State Association of Counties  
Washington State Farm Bureau



**AND MANY MORE . . . .**



# Project schedule







# Resources: Research by Washington public institutions





# Learning from Oregon's unsuccessful "Big Look"

## 6 tips for our success

1. Assure a clear scope and agreement on the process
2. Identify project milestones and desired deliverables
3. Engage all interests, be inclusive and transparent
4. Support with non-partisan, empirical data – but don't go into the weeds!
5. Provide sufficient funding to stay on schedule
6. Do not take too long!



# Contact information

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