

**Island County Assessor and Treasurer
Snohomish County Assessor and Treasurer
Snohomish County Fire District 4**

Joint Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Date: Feb. 26, 2007

Island County and Snohomish Co. Fire District #4 Ask to Recertify Amounts

Snohomish County Fire District 4 will now be able to recertify to the Snohomish County Assessor the correct bond amount for their district. Fire District 4 Chief Collins, said, "In late January the Snohomish County Treasurer told the Fire District and the Assessor that it was too late to make a correction."

The Treasurer's office decided not to make the correction, because the levies were already certified and the statement printing process had already begun. Fire District 4 had planned to correct the error by either refunding the amount themselves or by requesting a lesser amount next year.

It's the responsibility of taxing districts to certify that the amount they are requesting for bonds is correct to the Assessor. The bond amount to be collected will be reduced and will result in a lowering of the levy rate of approximately 4 cents (3.8) per thousand dollars of assessed value or approximately \$13.20 for a property assessed at \$350,000. The District had planned to notify property owners of the error in their upcoming newsletter.

After learning that Snohomish County would recertify assessed values and recalculate levies for this year, the Island County Assessor's office requested that Snohomish County make a correction for Island County as well.

Island County found that the certified values they provided to Snohomish County in January were incorrect, but because Snohomish County had already certified when this was discovered they planned to make the correction next year. The amounts are used for the calculation of levies for the two "joint taxing districts" Sno-Isle Regional Library and Stanwood Camano School District. The effect in shared taxing districts to the property owners for both counties will be minimal.

The corrected tax amounts for both counties won't be available until the Snohomish County Assessor's office completes the recertification of assessed values and recalculation of levies and both Treasurers' offices recalculate taxes.

The Snohomish County Assessor's office completed their internal audit of the non-certified personal property value which resulted in a total of \$151,957,922 in assessed value that will be used to recalculate levies and taxes. The Assessor is taking every action to prevent the chances of a certification error happening again.