



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT PRESENTS KEY AWARD TO PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER SHAWN BUNNEY

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government will present its Key Award to Pierce County Council member, Shawn Bunney on June 3, 2008 at 2:30 PM at the COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, 930 Tacoma Ave S. #1045, Tacoma, WA. Bunney, a Republican from Lake Tapps, is being recognized for his work to make government entities in Washington open and accountable to the public. He has been in the forefront of efforts to create Pierce County's first-ever "open government ombudsman" position to promote government transparency and help the county's citizens access public records.

"Some jurisdictions simply dump public records responsibilities on an existing employee without allotting extra time or funding," Bunney said. "I believe true public access requires more than that."

Bunney is currently in his second term representing Pierce County's 1st Council District, which includes the eastern and southern districts of Pierce County. He also serves as co-chair of the Lake Tapps Task Force. Prior to running for office, Shawn Bunney was legal advisor to the County Council for ten years.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG) is an independent non-partisan non-profit organization founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and backgrounds, all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels.

For more information, contact Washington Coalition for Open Government, 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664 or on the web at www.washingtoncog.org or call (206) 782-0393.