Spokane ♦ Vancouver ♦ Pasco ♦ Puyallup ♦ Bellevue ♦ Seattle ♦ Everett

This summer Governor Gregoire and her senior staff are visiting several communities across the state, engaging citizens in a meaningful dialogue about state government's priorities, performance and accountability. She is reaching out beyond the lobbyists and special interests who traditionally have had the most access to state government decision makers. As she puts it,

"We can't set the state's priorities alone in Olympia. I am reaching out to hear directly from the citizens, so they can help me set priorities and identify ways to measure whether state government is working better or not."

The citizen engagement process is designed in three tiers to engage citizens in a meaningful dialogue, and to gather information from multiple sources.

1. **Citizen Workshops**: Fifty citizens are selected at random to represent a cross-section of each community. These citizens meet with members of the governor's staff for a three-hour workshop to discuss, design, and prioritize performance measures to track progress in critical services, such as health care, the economy, transportation and education.

2. **Community Leader events**: Community leaders representing a broad spectrum of interests and organizations meet with the governor's senior staff to discuss the priorities developed in the citizen workshops, delving further into the most important issues in that community.

3. **Town Halls**: In an open community forum, Governor Gregoire will ask citizens directly what results they think their state government ought to be accountable for delivering.

Governor Gregoire will use the citizens' ideas to inform state budget development in the fall. She also conducts bi-weekly performance review sessions with agency directors, holding them personally accountable for delivering real results and ensuring that citizens get a good return on their tax dollars.

A final report on the summer's tour will be completed by August 31, 2006.

Seattle Citizen Workshop: Summary Report

Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at Seattle Central Community College

Who was at the Seattle Citizens Workshop?

- 51 citizens, a representative sample drawn from a list of people who voted at least once in past 4 elections. Gender: 44% male, 56% female
- Where from: 17% Northwest, 8% Northeast; 35% Southeast; 40% Southwest
- Age Group: 12% were 18-35, 26% were 36-50, 48% were 51-64, and 14% were 65 or older
- Household: 41% Single, no children; 35% Couple, no children; 6% Single, children at home; 18% Couple, children at home
- Employment: 38% private sector; 28% public sector, 34% not employed or retired

Here's what the citizens in Seattle said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:
1) education 2) health 3) economic vitality 4) natural resources

Overall Comments:

- State government is working: Better (38%) About the same (36%) Worse (26%). More people in Seattle think state government is working better than compared to a statewide survey conducted in April 2006.
- Transportation was not the priority issue or topic of discussion. Health and education carried the day.

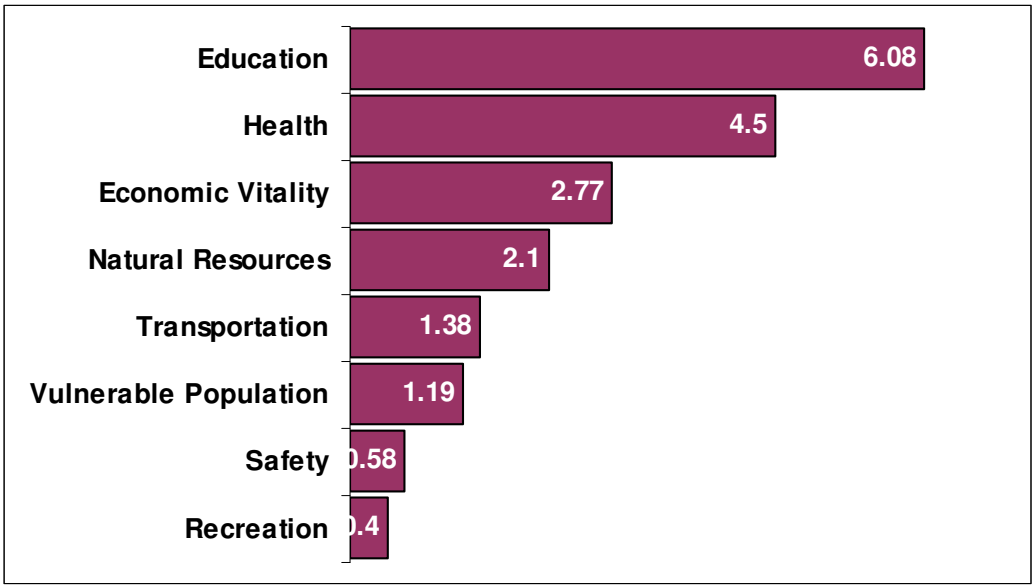
What *is not* working very well in state government today:

- Education funding. "We've dropped in our national standing of how much we spend per child in education."
- Everyone should have health and dental care.
- Services to children/families
- Transportation
- Historic preservation
- Roadwork
- Funding for mental health

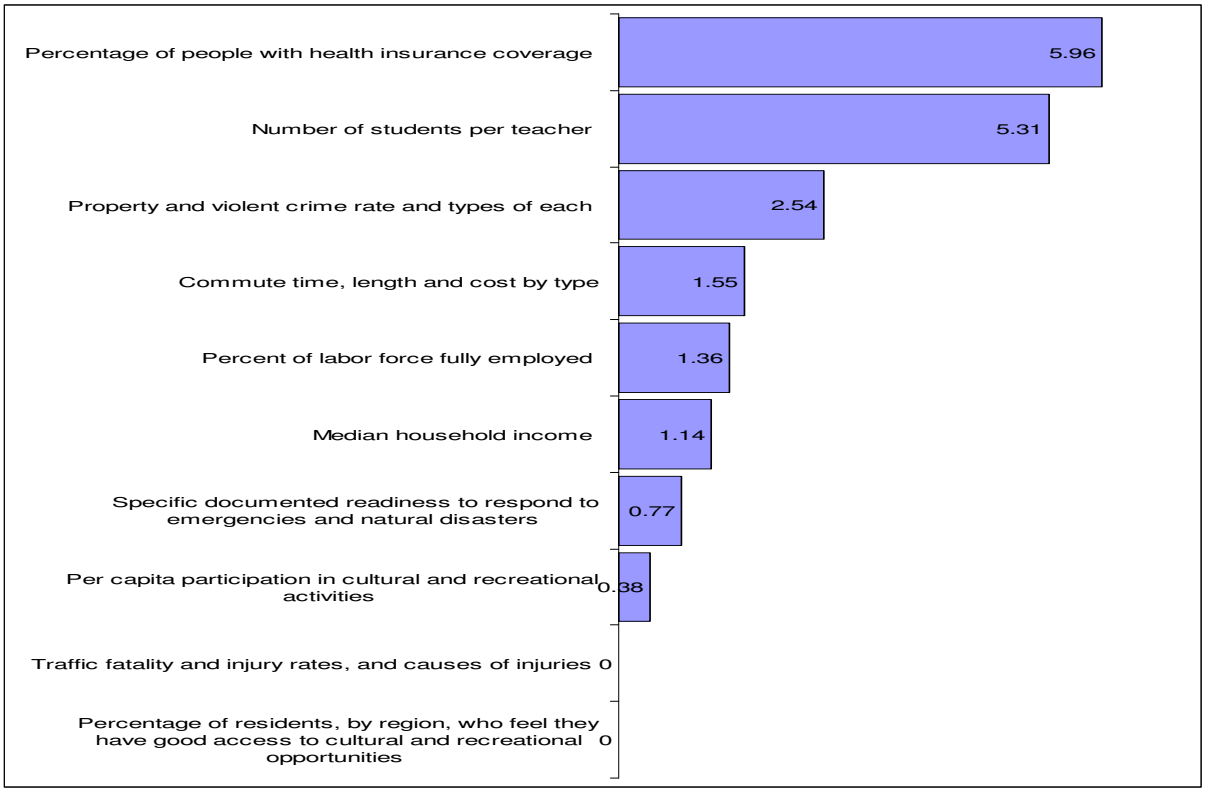
What *is* working well in state government today:

- International trade
- Access to information about state government
- Renewable energy and energy independence.
- Growth management
- Finally we're realizing that transportation needs a real solution.
- Laws.

Here's what the citizens in Seattle said they cared most about, in rank order of priority:



Here are the top 10 of measures of success as developed by the citizen workgroup in Seattle:



For more information about the Governor's Listening to You tour, visit

www.governor.wa.gov