



Re: The Everett Herald incorrectly reported that New Stadium money comes from Snohomish County when actually, the New Stadium money comes from STATE TAXES.

From William Geschke <william.geschke@heraldnet.com>
Date Thu 12/18/2025 5:00 PM
To john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Cc Michael Henneke <michael.henneke@heraldnet.com>

Hi John,

I spoke with a county staffer and county council member Jared Mead today. They both confirmed to me that the \$5 million the county set aside for the stadium project was set to come from Snohomish County REET 2 dollars, not state funds.

Let me know if you have any other questions,

Will Geschke | The Daily Herald
General Assignment Reporter
william.geschke@heraldnet.com
425-339-3443 | 56620 | www.heraldnet.com

On Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 9:05 AM john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com> wrote:

William Geschke
Reporter for The Everett Herald
425-339-3443
william.geschke@heraldnet.com

Dear William Geschke,

It's great to hear from you again!

The last time I heard from you was back on July 17th regarding the new stadium project. I appreciated your information.

The Everett Herald December 12, 2025, statement, "... Snohomish County ... (is).....set to contribute millions of dollars toward the project." is factually incorrect. (* see email below.)

Your research, combined with Snohomish County Councilmember responses, may help you evaluate whether or not the City of Everett is misrepresenting information to the media and the public.

In answer to your questions, I call your attention to three sources:

- 1 . The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC).
REET 1 and REET 2 information is available at MRSC - Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET).

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/finance/revenues/real-estate-excise-tax>

2. On June 19, 2025, The Everett Herald published a letter to the editor titled, "What's state's role in county funding for stadium."

<https://www.heraldnet.com/breakingnews/whats-states-role-in-county-funding-for-stadium-2/>

The letter clearly indicates:

"There is no money allocated in either 2025 or 2026 for the Everett Stadium in the Snohomish County budget....The source of these dollars is REET 1 Funds, Fund 191."

The money that you incorrectly report comes from Snohomish County, actually comes from STATE OF WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAXES.

The letter appeared in The Everett Herald 6 months ago. Was the question investigated at the Everett Herald at that time? Perhaps Everett Herald editors or Everett Herald reporters would be willing to share their sources with you.

3. On June 25, 2025, the Snohomish County Tribune published a letter to the editor titled, "Is state funding for stadium to appease Major League Baseball?"

<https://www.snoho.com/news/2025/jun/25/is-state-funding-for-stadium-to-appease-major-league-baseball/>

In addition to capital budget information, the letter to the editor also indicates:

"County officials indicated that the county was not directly involved in funding Everett Stadium. Snohomish County did not have any role or direct involvement in the state funding for Everett Stadium in Snohomish County. The county did not advocate for those funds, the county did not lobby for them or include them in their legislative priorities and the county did not administer the funds."

While I admire your diligence in reviewing the county's 2025-26 CIP book, Snohomish County Code, and SCC 4.12.005, I suggest you contact Snohomish County Councilmembers directly. I have CC'd Snohomish County Councilmembers for your convenience.

Comparing your research with Councilmember responses may help you evaluate whether or not the City of Everett is misrepresenting information to the media and the public.

Thank you again for your email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

John E. Martin
425-361-2854

jmartinnoj@hotmail.com

<https://martinmusic.biz/NitramProjectFrogPond7th.html>

<https://martinmusic.biz/contact/no-frogs-downtown-2/>

CC

Snohomish County Councilmembers
Michael Whitney Editor Snohomish County Tribune
BCC Citizens and various media.

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From: William Geschke <william.geschke@heraldnet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 4:17 PM
To: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Cc: Michael Henneke <michael.henneke@heraldnet.com>
Subject: Re: The Everett Herald incorrectly reported that New Stadium money comes from Snohomish County when actually, the New Stadium money comes from STATE TAXES.

Hi John,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, it's been a busy week.

I'm looking into this. I found the placeholder funds you mentioned in the county's [2025-26 CIP book](#). It says the funds are a "set aside reserve for future REET2" (not REET 1) but doesn't give a reason for the spending. The county just confirmed to me those allocations are the funds that are set aside for the stadium.

Both the county and state collect REET taxes. Looking at the Snohomish County Code, it says the county's Fund 191 contains tax revenues received pursuant to [SCC 4.12.005](#), which establishes the county's 0.5% REET tax.

Where did you see the allocation coming from REET 1 instead of REET 2? Could you send me that document if you have it?

I'll check if this \$5 million could be something allocated to the county via a state fund. I'll have to confirm this in a follow-up to the county, which may take some time as they're working on flood/wind responses (as am I).

Just as a note, if the funding was provided from the state to the county, then the county allocated it toward the stadium project, we would consider that a county contribution as the county would be the governing body deciding where to spend that money.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Will Geschke | The Daily Herald
General Assignment Reporter
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On Wed, Dec 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Everett Herald Reporter Will Geschke, Everett Herald Editor Michael Henneke, and Carpenter Media Group Senior Vice President and Group Publisher - Oregon and North Carolina, John Carr,

Greetings and please check your facts.

Your statement, "... Snohomish County ... (is) set to contribute millions of dollars toward the project." is factually incorrect.*

The money that you incorrectly report comes from Snohomish County actually comes from STATE OF WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAXES.

Snohomish County "... did not have any role or direct involvement in the STATE funding."

There is no money allocated in either 2025 or 2026 for the Everett Stadium in the Snohomish County Budget. What was put in was essentially a placeholder in the CIP for future years, with \$1,250,000 earmarked for 2027, \$1,450,000 for 2028, \$950,000 for 2029, and \$1,350,000 for 2030. So, in 2026 when Council considers the 2027-2028 biennial budget, they would then officially allocate \$2,700,000 for those two years, and in 2028 they would allocate the remaining \$2,300,000 for 2029-2030.

The source of these dollars is Washington State Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) REET 1 Funds, Fund 191. And they are restricted to only be used for qualifying projects.

The Everett Herald incorrectly reports that the money comes from "Snohomish County" when actually, the money comes from STATE OF WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAXES.

Please print a retraction and indicate that "Snohomish County" money is actually part of a capital budget and actually comes from STATE OF WASHINGTON REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAXES.

The Everett Herald might also point out that this miscommunication was originated by City of Everett communications to the media and public through numerous presentations and documents. The City of Everett staff indicated on June 11, 2025, that Snohomish County would somehow provide \$5 million in funding support for the proposed new Downtown baseball stadium.

I look forward to the Everett Herald printed retraction and corrected statements.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

John E. Martin
425-361-2854
jmartinnoj@hotmail.com

Teresa Wippel Editor Mountlake Terrace News
Michael Whitney Editor Snohomish County Tribune
Michele Matassa Flores Editor The Seattle Times
Stephanie Pedersen Editor The Tacoma News Tribune
Staff The Olympian
Greg Halling Editor Yakima Herald Republic
Eric Schwartz Editor The Daily Chronicle
Rob Curley Editor The Spokane Spokesman-Review

Staff Grass Roots Everett

BCC Citizens and various media

*The December 12, 2025 article is titled, "Everett council resolution lays out priorities for proposed stadium"

- [Https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-council-resolution-lays-out-priorities-for-proposed-stadium/](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-council-resolution-lays-out-priorities-for-proposed-stadium/)

*Full statement; "The state, Snohomish County, Everett AquaSox and United Soccer League are all set to contribute millions of dollars toward the project."

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From: John Carr <john.carr@bendbulletin.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 7:54 AM

To: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>; Michael Henneke <michael.henneke@heraldnet.com>

Subject: Re: Fw: A little more balanced approach.

Greetings Mr. Martin.

I have added Everett's Editor Michael Henneke. Thank you for your note, and the effort you put into it.

The link goes to an opinion piece. Publishing a wide variety of views on an opinion page is important, but the opinion are those of the writers, not the Herald's. Publishing in no way equates to endorsement of those views.

In my view the information an perspective you have added here is also worth including on the opinion page. Michael has ultimate say in what we publish, but would you be interested in sharing your thoughts with readers?

Thank you for the kind words, constructive criticism, and readership!

On Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 7:21 PM john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com> wrote:

Carrie Radcliff<carrie.radcliff@heraldnet.com>

You

Hello, thank you for reaching out. I am currently on medical leave until sometime in December. In my absence, please reach out to one of the people below.

Executive level inquiries: John Carr, john.carr@bendbulletin.com

From: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 7:07 PM

To: William Geschke <wiliam.geschke@heraldnet.com>

Cc: Carrie Radcliff <carrie.radcliff@heraldnet.com>;

michael.henneke@heraldnet.com <michael.henneke@heraldnet.com>; Michael Whitney <michael.tribune@snoho.com>; robc@spokesman.com <robc@spokesman.com>; Pedersen, Stephanie

<spedersen@thenewstribune.com>
Subject: A little more balanced approach.

William Geschke
Reporter for The Everett Herald
425-339-3443
[william.geschke@heraldnet.com](mailto:wiliam.geschke@heraldnet.com)

Dear William Geschke,

Thank you for your November 10 article regarding the Everett Mayor's race.
I must say, the Everett Herald and your writing is a source of valuable information.

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-mayor-race-early-results-show-franklin-leading/>

But your article and the October 18th budget opinion piece

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/comment-if-everett-candidate-can-fix-budget-what-would-he-cut/>

leave something to be desired.

"The proposed "New Stadium" in downtown Everett amounts to 31% of Everett's \$439 million budget in 2024, and 21% of Everett's increased \$644 million budget in 2025. The impacts of the proposed "New Stadium" in downtown Everett should be included in the city's proposed 2026 budget."

This statement was part of the public record at the "Emergency Budget Meeting" in September at the Transit Station and also submitted as part of the public record at a recent Everett City Council meeting.

The three councilmembers in the October 18, 2025 Everett Herald article, - Scott Bader, Ben Zarlingo and Don Schwab - all voted on numerous occasions in favor of measures supporting the "New 137.9 Stadium."

In the article they indicate "... we have a critical interest in realistic budget discussions."

Yet nowhere in the article do they "realistically" discuss the budget impacts of a "New \$137.9 million Stadium."

Instead, they ignore the impacts of a "New \$137.9 million Stadium" and indicate:

"After the measures we've proposed for a balanced 2026 budget, our structural deficit problem shows the city facing in 2027 a deficit at this time of some \$7 million."

These councilmembers need to face the white elephant in the room. These three council members need to face the "New \$137.9 million Stadium" they voted for.

What structural deficit problems will the City of Everett face in 2027, 2028, 2029 and beyond, with a "New \$137.9 million Stadium?"

This is the white elephant you should at least have mentioned have in your "Franklin wins reelection as Everett mayor" article.

While you may not agree with the perspective of the Snohomish County Tribune, the Tacoma Tribune, or the Spokane Spokesman-Review, you can at least have a little more balanced approach.

And what about Mayor Franklin and Project Frog Pond?

You can do better.

Still, thank you for your reporting and your journalism.

Best Regards,

John E. Martin

425-361-2854

jmartinnoj@hotmail.com

No Frogs Downtown

<https://martinmusic.biz/NitramProjectFrogPond7th.html>

For the latest letters, articles, and songs go to:

<https://martinmusic.biz/contact/no-frogs-downtown-2/>

(Sometimes it loads slowly)

<https://www.snoho.com/news/2025/oct/08/mariners-have-big-money-how-about-they-give-cash-for-its-everett-farm-teams-stadium/>

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article312346445.html>

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2025/oct/04/letters-for-saturday-oct-4/>