

Library-Archives Building 2019

Secretary of State Kim Wyman



Safeguarding public records while streamlining state government

- The Washington State Constitution places responsibility for keeping and making available state public records with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- The State Archives building has been over capacity since 2006. The State Library has operated out of an office building since 2001. Neither of these facilities meet modern archival standards.
- The 2018 Legislature provided the OSOS with \$5 million for architectural design work and project management. We are now ready to move to the next phase.
- **The cost of inaction at this point is immeasurable.** The potential for losing a majority of the state's archival records to fire or flood has reached a critical stage.
 - Water and sewer pipes suspended from the concrete ceilings throughout the Archives storage areas are just inches from priceless, irreplaceable historic documents.
 - Since 1997, three major floods have occurred inside the Archives building.
 - The 1960s-era Archives building has no fire suppression system for most collections.

History at risk in obsolete and inadequate buildings

ARCHIVES

- The Archives Building (located at 1129 Washington Street in Olympia) was constructed in 1962 as a records center that doubled as a bomb shelter. The facility does not meet modern environmental and atmospheric requirements for storing archival documents.
- The volume of archival records has surpassed the building's 49,500-square-foot maximum storage capacity, resulting in the need to lease other facilities that also do not meet modern archival document storage standards.
- Archives houses records that date back to 1853 and include the original territorial and state laws, the 1889 State Constitution, territorial tribal and local census documents, Supreme Court case files, legally-required retention of state agency and legislative records, and much more.

LIBRARY

- The Washington State Library (located at 6880 Capitol Blvd. in Tumwater) collects, preserves, and makes accessible a research collection focused on Washington State and Pacific Northwest history, culture, natural resources, and government. It houses state and federal documents, serves as a regional repository, and provides leadership and services for Washington libraries.
- The Library administers federal grants extended to local and regional libraries across the state.
- Much of the Library's collection which cannot fit at its current location is housed a mile away at the Federal Documents Annex, a 6,382 sq. ft. warehouse built in 1970.
- By federal law, documents must be retrievable whenever requested by the public, making the annex inadequate for the management of federal documents.

(over)



April 25, 2014: The State Archives building floods with several inches after water line breaks.



April 25, 2014: Irreplaceable government records must be shielded by tarps after flooding.



December 21, 1995: Fire guts the Lincoln County Courthouse, nearly destroying valuable documents.



October 8, 2018: Three-alarm fire destroys Olympia Brewery office building containing historical documents.

DISASTERS LIKE THESE COULD STRIKE THE STATE ARCHIVES BUILDING AT ANY TIME.

A new building will make government more publicly accessible

- Two other Secretary of State offices – the Elections Division and the Corporations & Charities Division – are currently located in rented buildings around Olympia and Tumwater.
- Consolidating all six facilities into a new Library-Archives Building creates the opportunity to appropriate annual rent costs of over \$2 million toward construction of a state-owned facility.
- Financing methods include:
 - A \$103 million certificate of participation (COP)
 - A one-time \$6 million transfer from the OSOS Corporations Division
 - \$5 million in 2018 legislative appropriation for design
 - A requested \$2.00 recording fee increase on documents filed with county auditors
 - The reallocation of the current 50-cent fee which funded construction of the Digital Archives in Cheney, Washington (on a COP paid off in FY 2018)
- This new facility would be financed, in part, through a Certificate of Participation (COP \$103 million) and a 2018 Legislative Appropriation of \$5 million for design (\$108 million).