

Senate Supplemental Budget Zeroes Out MRSC by July 1st

March 4, 2016 by [Tracy Burrows](#)



The Washington State Senate supplemental budget with adjustments for the remainder of the 2016/17 biennium, eliminates all funding for the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC).

MRSC has been serving local governments in Washington for over 80 years. Our longevity is directly attributable to providing high quality service to our partners.

MRSC's state appropriation represents a partnership of city and county support. MRSC's funding has come from a small portion of the local government share of liquor revenues that historically would have otherwise gone directly to cities and counties. This efficient method of funding gives cities and counties access to a remarkable pooled resource that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

MRSC's services in 2015 included:

- 7,150 inquiry requests answered from more than 350 local and state government agencies
- 50,000 research hours logged by 1.4 million web visitors, including state agency and legislative staff
- 56 trainings conducted for over 4,000 attendees

Visit AWC's website for more information about the state budget impacts on local government.



City of Stevenson

(509) 427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371
Stevenson, Washington 98648

Senator Andy Hill
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504

March 1, 2016

RE: Funding for Municipal Research and Services Center

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the City of Stevenson to ask you to please preserve funding for the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC). MRSC provides invaluable services to cities and counties throughout Washington, especially smaller cities like Stevenson. We use MRSC extensively and I have been thoroughly impressed with their expert financial and legal advice. They provide comprehensive and consistent information encompassing a broad range of topics important to local communities. They also communicate local government's concerns to State Legislators.

When I call the City Attorney for legal advice, his first comment is often that I might want to check with MRSC first to see if they already have an answer to my question.

Eliminating funding to MRSC would be a major loss to cities and counties throughout Washington. It would reduce expenditures at the State level, but would cause a far greater increase in expenditures at the local level.

MRSC helps improve the quality of service we provide as a local government; please continue their funding.

Sincerely,
Nick Hogan
City Administrator