

Cantwell Taps Kitsap Comm. Endresen to Lead WA Offices

Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen Accepts State Director Post Effective June 28th

SEATTLE, WA – Monday, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) announced that Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen will serve as her new State Director, based out of Cantwell's Seattle office. Endresen will manage Cantwell's Washington state operations, including offices in Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver, Everett and Tri-Cities.

“This is exciting news to have someone with such a strong public service background in Washington local government running my state offices,” said Cantwell. **“Chris’s extensive experience and solid track record in both the public and private sectors is a tremendous asset to the people of Washington state. Now from this top federal post she will help build on our many successes. She knows the importance of building strong communities and how critical it is for us to work together here in the Northwest.”**

Endresen is currently serving her third term as Kitsap County District 1 Commissioner. As a county commissioner, she has worked to preserve open spaces, support local government, and promote livable communities. A graduate of the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, she represents Kitsap County on several key state and local boards, and currently serves as Vice-President of the Washington State Association of Counties. Her long history of public service began with ten years on the Poulsbo City Council.

“I am thrilled to have this opportunity to join Senator Cantwell’s team serving the citizens of our state,” Endresen said. **“I have loved serving as county commissioner, yet I feel this is a perfect fit to bring together my experience working at the local, regional and state level.”**

Endresen replaces Kurt Beckett, who was Cantwell's long time top state aide. Beckett served as Cantwell's first State Director for four years before his promotion to Chief of Staff. Beckett started on Cantwell's staff soon after her election to the U.S. Senate in 2000. Prior to joining Cantwell's staff, Beckett worked for Congressman Norm Dicks for nine years.

“I am so proud of the job Kurt has done for me and proud of his 15 years of service to our state in both the House and the Senate,” Cantwell added. **“He has been a steady hand in getting a freshman Senator’s office up and running and I couldn’t have done it without him. I wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter of his career.”**

Endresen's Commissioner term would have expired in December 2008. She will resign her commissioner's post June 28th.

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