
WA GOVERNOR PROMISES 20,000 NEW JOBS



In her second inaugural speech, Washington state's Democratic Governor Christine O'Grady Gregoire promised to create 20,000 new jobs in the next two years. At the state legislature in Olympia, the former Attorney General said "we cannot ride out the hard times and then go back to business as usual." Her Washington Jobs Now plan will support transportation and capital construction projects that will provide nearly 20,000 jobs. The plan will include mortgage reform measures and changes to the state's unemployment insurance program. Washington faces a projected \$5.7 billion budget shortfall. Unemployment claims in Washington State have hit a record -- in December more than 90, 000 people applied for benefits, 75% more than last year.

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