



Washington Coalition *for*  
Open Government  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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From: Washington Coalition for Open Government

Topic: 2017 James Madison Award Winner Former President Kris Passey

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Seattle---Longtime journalist, writer, and open government advocate, Kris Passey, will be honored by the Washington Coalition for Open Government with the organization's 2017 James Madison Award for his life-long dedication to open government issues and transparency.

Before becoming publisher of the Marysville Globe and Arlington Times newspapers in the 1990s, Passey came from a journalism background and quickly became an important advocate for community journalism and open government in the Evergreen state. He served on the board of directors of the state association for community newspapers (the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association or WNPA).

While working full time and volunteering at the WNPA (and elsewhere), Kris also donated his time to help form the Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG). Since its founding in 2002, WCOG has become the focal point for media, legal, legislative, and citizen efforts to uphold Washington's strong, but under assault, open public records and open public meetings laws. Kris was not only a founding member of the Coalition, he was one of its first presidents, serving two terms.

After his company sold the Globe and Times, Kris went on to earn his master's degree, from Missouri, and then taught journalism at Western Washington University. More recently, he

and his wife relocated to suburban Washington, D.C. to be nearer their children and grandchildren.

Kris learned recently that he has advanced-stage pancreatic cancer and two- to five-months to live. WCOG is asking friends, colleagues, and citizens to send video messages, emails, texts, and other communications with anecdotes and stories of Kris. We would like to share these at WCOG's annual Madison Andersen Awards breakfast in September.

WCOG has also created a Kris Passey Legacy Fund to further his lifelong dedication to the Coalition's mission- to help foster open government processes, supervised by an informed and engaged citizenry, which is the cornerstone of democracy. You can donate to this fund on our homepage at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org).

Your stories of Kris can be sent to [info@washingtoncog.org](mailto:info@washingtoncog.org) or uploaded/submitted through the Kris Passey Legacy Fund donation form.

WCOG is pleased to recognize Kris with its highest honor, the 2017 James Madison Award (other recipients include former state Auditor Brian Sonntag, former U.S. Senator and state AG Slade Gorton, Congressman Denny Heck, former State Supreme Court Justice James Andersen and former Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld).

*Join WCOG and help in the non-partisan fight for transparent government and open public participation. WCOG was founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and interests but all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels. WCOG stands for the principle that transparency and public participation are essential building blocks of good government.*

*Membership is open to the public. For more information contact WCOG at 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664, on the web at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org), or call (206) 782-0393*