Island County Government

great resource to follow would be http://www.naco.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About_Counties/County_Government/A_Brief_Overview_of_County_Government.htm

Island County was established in 1853, and is one of 39 counties in Washington State.

Our form of county government is known as a “Commission” form, which places legislative and executive powers with an elected commission, which in our case is the Board of Island County Commissioners.

Taken from the NACO “History of County Government” webpage: “The longest-standing form of county government, and the one most prevalent in rural areas, is the so-called “commission” form, in which voters elect a multi-member board. Known by different names—commissioners, supervisors, aldermen, etc.--these board members wield both legislative and executive authority, sharing some specific responsibilities with separately elected “row (or constitutional) officers” such as a sheriff, clerk, and coroner. “

Including the three Commissioners, we elect 13 different officials here.

- Assessor
- Auditor
- Clerk
- Commissioners (3)
- Coroner
- Courts – Superior Court Judges (2)
  District Court Judge (1)
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Sheriff
- Treasurer

Each of these elected officials have various networks of federal and state government, districts, and agencies to which they report or are accountable, and a variety of state and federal legislative requirements they must meet.
Ten of the officials (all but the commissioners) manage their own departments. The commissioners manage their department, and oversee, and appoint departments heads to manage, the remaining ten county departments:

- Budget
- Central Services
- Emergency Management
- Facilities and Maintenance
- General Services
- Health
- Human Resources
- Human Services
- Planning and Community Development
- Public Works
- WSU Island County Extension

All 20 departments work in relationship with each other, with all sharing some level of interdependency.