



## Municipal League Candidate Evaluations Released

### “Consumer Reports for local politics” helps voters and candidates

After weeks of research, candidate interviews and committee review, the all-volunteer Candidate Investigators and the board of the Municipal League have evaluated 115 candidates in races across King County.

The Municipal League’s Candidate Investigators have the difficult job of providing King County voters with non-partisan ratings of political office seekers. In this task they are guided by a well-honed process – this is the 99<sup>th</sup> iteration of candidate evaluations – that strives for objectivity and fairness through research, contact with the candidates, and careful review.

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Municipal League  
Candidate Ratings  
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this issue**

Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna had some very fine things to say about the Municipal League in his address to Candidate Investigators. He likened the League’s evaluations to a “*Consumer Reports* for local politics,” cutting through the marketing language and hype of the campaign to deliver useful information. McKenna described the process as “far more objective than any other process out there, [candidates] can’t just talk a good game.”

McKenna also praised the evaluation process as a beneficial exercise for politicians that “can sharpen a candidate’s skills and encourage them to think about their priorities, goals, approaches, and qualifications.”

## Metro Report Inspires Action in King County Council

### Introduced legislation urges increased efficiency and transparency

The Municipal League’s 2008 report, “Review of Metro Transit” which inspired increased dialogue among transit specialists, decision-makers, and the public, is now motivating proposed legislation in the King County Council.

In a letter to the authors of the report, Councilmember Larry Phillips expressed appreciation to the authors of League report for their “careful, thoughtful, and thorough review” of Metro. He also stated that he had introduced legislation to “ensure that Metro Transit takes appropriate action on the Muni League’s findings and recommendations.” Actions include performance measures for bus routes, a 10-year strategy to reduce operating costs, and a report back from Metro to the Council by January 2010.

The legislation, introduced by Phillips’ and Dow Constantine on June 22nd, refers to the Municipal League extensively (even mentioning the upcoming 100th anniversary) notes that the 2008 report “found much to admire in Metro’s performance” and mentions “transparency in performance measurement and reporting and control of operating costs” as areas in need of improvement or a fresh approach.

**Vote in the August Primary!**  
Mail-in ballots will be accepted through **August 18th**.  
Candidate ratings in this newsletter.

## View from the Chair

Sometimes it may be difficult for us policy wonks to realize, but finding detailed information about the people running for office is getting harder. In an era of increasing demands on personal time and when the local newspaper provides steadily less political coverage, it's understandable if average voters fail to track the minutiae of local races. Holding primary elections in the dog days of summer doesn't help either.



*Municipal League Chair Brad Meacham*

That's why the League's time-tested candidate ratings are more important than ever. We proudly describe our process as job interviews of candidates for public office, with citizens serving as hiring managers. No one in the nation provides such a tool for voters and, while the process remains fundamentally consistent, we're always seeking to make it stronger. We're grateful to the members of the Candidate Evaluation Program Steering Committee and Program Chair Gabe Meyer for their efforts.

This year we reviewed a record number of candidates across King County – from Shoreline to Auburn to Sammamish to Federal Way – and formed five committees largely composed of residents of the areas where they served. We published the results using Facebook, Twitter and online advertisements designed to reach a wider audience, while working to build buzz around the ratings through events and blogs. Let us know how we're doing.

At the same time I hope you take a moment to consider our recent report on the Port of Seattle – a key issue for the League since we helped create the Port nearly a century ago. We commend the volunteers who committed personal time to develop a set of reform recommendations, which should add rigor to the races for Port Commission.

If you're reading this, then good government is important to you. I hope you'll join me in demonstrating support through a financial contribution to the League and by encouraging your friends and colleagues to become members. Please share your ideas with us and get involved at [www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org).

## Candidate Evaluation Committee Volunteers

Our Candidate Evaluations are made possible through the hard work of volunteers from across King County. We would like to thank our committee chairs and candidate investigators for demonstrating their commitment to good government and quality leadership. Thank You!

### Candidate Evaluation Steering Chair

Gabe Meyer

### Candidate Evaluation Committee Chairs

Alex Bolton	John Jensen	Philip Rourke	Jay See	Chuck Sloane
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### Candidate Evaluation Program Volunteers

Todd Achilles	Casey Doran	Lauren Kuester	Will Niccolls	James Sullivan
Sara Ahmed	Stephen Ejide	Patricia Lanning	Keith Nitta	Kaitia Taipale
Anusuya Banerjee	Jonathon Evans	Terry Lavender	Dell Patterson	Paul Whyatt
Paul Barden	Lily Evans	Tyson Lin	Adam Porad	Stephanie Wilder
Jennifer Biller	Michael Gindroz	Sara MacDuff	Tamara Power-Drutis	Jerri Wood
Doug Boling	Adam Grupp	Michael Maddux	Lily Rehrmann	Oliver Wu
Erica Bourget	Ron Guidry	Maria Manza	Jane Repass	Kendee Yamaguchi
Barry Brinkman	Leif Hansen	Sean McPherson	Karen Rogulja	Autumn Yoke
Leo Carlson	Hervi Icban	Amy Michael	Michael Ryan	Elizabeth Younger
Wendy Cho Ripp	Brad Jacobsmeyer	Colin Miller	Stephanie Schwenger	
Graham Cooper	Chris Johnson	Carmen Moore	Tara Smith	
Tara DeCoster	Blaine Kinnebrew	Katy Naegeli	Genessa Stout	

### Candidate Evaluation Program Interns

Chase Anderson	Osamu Arakawa	Olivia Armstrong	Justine Goeke	Alex Kubacki	Sean McCotter
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Candidate	Position	Note	Rating
<b>KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>			
Dow Constantine	Exec		Very Good
Ross Hunter	Exec		Very Good
Susan Hutchison	Exec		Good
Fred Jarrett	Exec		Very Good
Goodspaceguy Nelson	Exec	%	Not Qualified
Larry Phillips	Exec		Very Good
Alan Lobdell	Exec		Good
Stan Lippmann	Exec		Not Qualified
<b>KING COUNTY COUNCIL</b>			
Reagan Dunn	9	~	Outstanding
Mark Greene	9		Adequate
Beverly Tonda	9		Good
<b>COURT OF APPEALS</b>			
Anne Ellington	3	~	Outstanding
Robert Kelly	3		Adequate
<b>PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION</b>			
David Doud	3		Good
Rob Holland	3		Very Good
Al Yuen	3		Good
Tom Albro	4		Outstanding
Juan Paraiso	4	%	Insufficient Info
Robert Walker	4		Adequate
Max Vekich	4		Good
<b>AUBURN CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Eugene Cerino	2	~,nb	Outstanding
John Partridge	2	nb	Adequate
<b>AUBURN MAYOR</b>			
Shelly Erickson	Mayor		Adequate
Virginia Haugen	Mayor	%	Adequate
Peter Lewis	Mayor	~	Very Good
Frank Lonergan	Mayor		Adequate
<b>BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Conrad Lee	2	~,nb	Very Good
Vicki Orrico	2	nb	Very Good
Patsy Bonincontri	4	~,nb	Very Good
Kevin Wallace	4	nb	Very Good
Don Davidson	6	~,nb	Very Good
Michael Marchand	6	nb	Very Good
<b>FEDERAL WAY CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Linda Kochmar	2	~,nb	Very Good
Sonia Sciscente	2	nb	Good
Jeanne Burbidge	4	~,nb	Outstanding
Mike Peterson	4	nb	Good
Roger Freeman	6		Very Good
Diana Noble-Gulliford	6		Very Good
Troy Smith	6	%	Not Qualified
David St. John	6	*	Insufficient Info
Lorie Wood	6		Good
<b>KENT CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Dennis Higgins	4	nb	Very Good
Dana Ralph	4	nb	Very Good
Elizabeth Albertson	6	~	Adequate
Geoff Koeppe	6		Adequate
Barbara Phillips	6	*	Insufficient Info
<b>KENT MAYOR</b>			
Jim Berrios	Mayor	nb	Good
Suzette Cooke	Mayor	~,nb	Outstanding
<b>KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Joan McBride	1	~, nb	Very Good
Martin Morgan	1	x,~,nb	Insufficient Info
Brad Larssen	3	nb	Very Good
Penny Sweet	3	nb	Outstanding
Matt Gregory	5		Very Good
Karen Tennyson	5		Very Good
Amy Walen	5		Good
Tom Hodgson	7	~, nb	Good
Doreen Marchione	7	nb	Outstanding

Candidate	Position	Note	Rating
<b>RENTON CITY COUNCIL</b>			
James Flynn	2	nb	Good
Rich Zwicker	2	~, nb	Outstanding
<b>SAMMAMISH CITY COUNCIL</b>			
John James	1	nb	Adequate
Erica Tiliacos	1	nb	Very Good
John Curley	3	nb	Good
Thomas Vance	3	nb	Very Good
Don Gerend	5	~, nb	Outstanding
Michael Rutt	5	nb	Adequate
Jack Barry	7	~, nb	Adequate
Tom Odell	7	nb	Good
<b>SEATAC CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Rick Forschler	2	nb	Good
Jonathan Standridge	2	nb	Good
Tony Anderson	4	~,nb	Very Good
Michael Kovacs	4	nb	Good
Pam Fernald	6	nb	Adequate
Barry Ladenburg	6	~,nb	Adequate
<b>SEATTLE CITY ATTORNEY</b>			
Thomas Carr	Atty	~, nb	Outstanding
Peter Holmes	Atty	nb	Very Good
<b>SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Richard Conlin	2	~, nb	Outstanding
David Ginsberg	2	nb	Adequate
Sally Bagshaw	4		Outstanding
David Bloom	4		Good
Brian Carver	4		Not Qualified
Dorsol Plants	4		Good
Thomas Tobin	4		Not Qualified
Jessie Israel	6		Very Good
Martin Kaplan	6		Very Good
Nick Licata	6	~	Very Good
Bobby Forch	8		Good
David Miller	8		Very Good
Michael O'Brien	8		Good
Robert Rosencrantz	8		Outstanding
Jordan Royer	8		Very Good
Rusty Williams	8		Not Qualified
<b>SEATTLE MAYOR</b>			
Elizabeth Campbell	Mayor		Not Qualified
James Donaldson	Mayor		Adequate
Jan Drago	Mayor		Good
Kwame Wyking Garrett	Mayor	*	Insufficient Info
Joseph Mallahan	Mayor		Outstanding
Michael McGinn	Mayor		Good
Greg Nickels	Mayor	~	Very Good
Norman Sigler	Mayor		Adequate
<b>SEATTLE SCHOOL BOARD</b>			
Mary Bass	5	~	Adequate
Joanna Cullen	5		Adequate
Andre Helmstetter	5		Good
Kay Smith-Blum	5		Very Good
Wilson Chin	7		Very Good
Charlie Mas	7		Very Good
Betty Patu	7		Very Good
<b>SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL</b>			
Patricia Hale	3		Very Good
Will Hall	3		Outstanding
Janet Way	3	~	Adequate
Cindy Ryu	5	~,+,nb	Adequate
Shari Tracey	5	nb	Good
Ronald Hansen	7	~, nb	Very Good
Christopher Roberts	7	nb	Not Qualified

**Key to notes**

- x No Active Campaign
- % Declined to Participate
- + Unable to Interview
- \* Unable to contact
- ~ Incumbent
- nb November ballot only



## Municipal League of King County

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Mary Gates	Bradley Meacham	Todd Slind	Paul Whyatt
Chris Johnson	Gabe Meyer	Nick Verwolf	Nick Williamson
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Sandra Driscoll	Robert Klein	Steve Marshall	Kristin Peterson

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### About the Municipal League

The Municipal League of King County is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that has worked to ensure good government that is open, effective and accountable since 1910. The Municipal League is dedicated to improving the caliber of public officials and the quality of public decisions.

For more information see [www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org).