



## Candidate Evaluation Committee Gearing up for 2009

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Committee (CEC) process is the region's only independent, non-partisan, agenda-free evaluation of candidates for public office.

We are now recruiting volunteer committee members to serve on the CEC – you too can take part in this outstanding process! As a Candidate Investigator, you will have the opportunity to meet the candidates, learn more about local issues and network with other civic-minded individuals.

Committee members research and interview candidates – almost like a job interview – and are committed to developing ratings that are free from ideology or partisan factors. Ratings are based on the candidates' involvement, effectiveness, character and knowledge. We ask committee members to refrain from actively supporting local candidates that we rate.

The time commitment is only 12 evenings, including two training sessions, eight interview nights and two evenings of reviews.

Here's the 2009 CEC timeline:

CEC Training Sessions – June 9 & 16

Candidate Investigations – June 10 – 15 and 17 –21 (no meetings)

Candidate Interviews – June 22 – 25 and June 29 – July 2

Final Committee Review – July 13 *or* 14

Board Final Review – July 20 *or* 21

Ratings Release Party – July 23

More CEC information and applications can be found at [www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org).

If you would like more information or an application, please contact Gabe Meyer at [gabe4munileague@gmail.com](mailto:gabe4munileague@gmail.com) or contact our Candidate Evaluation Committee Coordinator Jesseca Brand at 206-264-1070 or [cec@munileague.org](mailto:cec@munileague.org).

### Races to be Evaluated in 2009

- King County Executive
- King County Council
- Port of Seattle Commission
- Mayors of cities in King County
- City Councils in King County
- And more

## Follow-up on League's Recommendations to Metro

Following publication of our November 2008 report, Review of Metro Transit, the Municipal League called for a public dialogue on our recommendations. The response has been excellent – in the past six months we've had 15 invitations to speak with groups and policymakers. We also convened two roundtables, one with transportation professionals and the other with civic leaders.

(continued on page 3)

## View from the Chair

We recently celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Civic Awards during a sold-out evening at the Seattle Art Museum. The energy in the room created by the mix of attendees highlighted the impact we're having on our community and inspired me about the Municipal League's huge potential.



*Municipal League Chair Brad Meacham*

It also reminded me of an upcoming major centennial for our region: the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Municipal League in 2010. This is an opportunity to celebrate the milestones of the Seattle area so far and – more importantly – set the stage for wise decisions in the next century. We've formed a Centennial Committee made up of community members and Municipal League trustees to help shape the vision for the celebration.

We're planning a Centennial Gala next spring to celebrate efforts to improve government and our region. During the anniversary year, we aim to record the memories of past leaders while extending the Municipal League's work of engaging communities around King County to promote better government well into the future.

These plans can't distract us from our current programs. Candidate evaluations begin in a few weeks and we expect to scrutinize a range of ballot issues later this year. We're building support around the conclusions of our recent report to reform Metro Transit and our other committees are readying their findings.

To help accomplish all this, we recently welcomed two great additions to the Municipal League team. Mason Lowe, our new operations manager, previously spent seven years managing communications, development, and administrative operations at environmental organizations on the national and regional level. Jesseca Brand joined us as coordinator of this year's candidate evaluation program after years working for nonprofit organizations around the region. Both will amplify the impact of volunteers who help promote better government and better public decisions.

Please help us build on this work by lending your expertise to the Centennial Committee or by making a financial donation. Please call our office or pledge at [www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org).

## Celebrating the Centennial, Getting Involved

The Municipal League of King County will be commemorating its centennial in 2010. One-hundred years of effectively advocating for qualified, accountable governance is cause for celebration! True to form, we are opening up this topic for input and participation from our membership on how to best honor our history and set the stage for our next hundred years. This is a great opportunity to highlight the League's important role in the community through special events, history projects, and new outreach materials and activities.

A Centennial Committee is being assembled to promote and coordinate anniversary-related activities of the Events, Issues, Development and Communications Committees. Contact Saul at [dir@munileague.org](mailto:dir@munileague.org) if you are interested in participating on the Centennial Committee.



*Images from the first 100 years: Exposing graft and improper contractor selection during construction of the West Seattle Bridge was a signature issue for the Municipal League in the 1970s. Photo: Steve Thornton*



*Images from the first 100 years: Transportation in King County has been and remains a major issue.*



*Images from the first 100 years: Myrtle Edwards served at the Seattle City Council and the League.*

## What We Have Heard

Our report made recommendations in several areas, primarily focusing on service standards and performance measurement, and service allocation. Here is what we heard in our meetings and roundtables following the release of our recommendations in November of last year:

- First and most significantly, there is a strong consensus in the region on the linkage between our growth management vision and transit service.
- Further, there is general agreement that transit policy should better reflect that linkage by incorporating additional factors into both allocation and cutback policies.

We learned that the Puget Sound Regional Council in its Vision 2040 growth plan coined the term “geographies” for city tiers: metropolitan cities, core cities, small cities, and so on. We thought this framework a useful one that could be adapted to transit allocation.

Another key message that we heard was that a cutback policy is fundamentally different than an allocation policy and requires a different approach. Especially in light of the severity of the current fiscal crisis, which far exceeds what may have been envisioned by the current 62-17-21 cutback policy, this policy would lead to unacceptably drastic impacts.

*“The existing service cutback policy is not compatible with all of the other broad goals that Metro is being directed to preserve ... the most pressing current task must be to make needed cuts where they will save the most money while affecting the system as little as possible.”*

Municipal League letter to King County Council and Regional Transit Committee

Our roundtable participants told us that allocation policy needs to be dynamic and should be reevaluated every few years to ensure it keeps up with demographic, fiscal and political realities.

We heard that the equity principle is still important. Funding equity (return on taxes generated) is a fairness factor and should be considered in allocation policy, but not be the sole factor. Rebalancing and serving rapidly growing suburban communities continues to be important. Also, providing basic service in outlying areas of the county must continue to be part of Metro’s core mission.

## What We Have Concluded

We feel validated in many of our original recommendations, even more so in light of the budget crisis facing Metro.

- Service cutbacks should be based not on a rigid subarea-based formula, but on route-based transit characteristics.
- A new service allocation policy should be developed that incorporates the size and nature of each transit market, density of population and employment, and other transit-related characteristics. The region should explore using a new framework of informal city “caucuses” based on the Vision 2040 framework to replace subareas for allocation purposes.
- Metro should develop and publish service allocation standards based on such a centers-based framework.

In a letter to the County Council and the Regional Transit Committee dated May 27, 2009, we wrote, “The existing service cutback policy is not compatible with all of the other broad goals that Metro is being directed to preserve ... the most pressing current task must be to make needed cuts where they will save the most money while affecting the system as little as possible.” We also urged our County’s policymakers to stay focused on setting priorities to address the challenges facing our transit system. To read the full letter, please visit our Web site: [www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org).

## Coming Soon...

- The report detailing transparency and accountability of management at the Port of Seattle is due to be adopted in June and released later in the month.
- Ballot Issues Committee is considering the Seattle plastic bag tax and the North Highline annexation for the August primary election.
- The Centennial Committee is forming to plan activities for our 100th anniversary and we are still seeking volunteers. (See story on page 2)
- The Candidate Evaluation Committee is looking for interviewers – don’t miss this opportunity to serve your community through this unique process. (See story on page 1)

## Municipal League of King County

810 Third Ave, Suite 224

Seattle, WA 98104

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

**PAID**

Seattle, WA

Permit No. 5025

### In this issue:

- Metro Study Follow-up
- Candidate Evaluation Committee
- Celebrating the Centennial
- Message from Board Chair



### Municipal League Board Members

Deryl Brown-Archie	Lauren Kuester	Peter Nickerson	Vickie Wallen
Kathy Elias	Cynara Lilly	Kristin Peterson	Rodney Wendt
Mary Gates	Bradley Meacham	Ramsey Ramerman	Kevin White
Chris Johnson	Gabe Meyer	Mike Repass	Paul Whyatt
Robert Klein	Kathryn Naegeli	Todd Slind	Nick Williamson
		Nick Verwolf	Kendee Yamaguchi

### Municipal League Foundation Board Members

Bruce Carter	Kathy Elias	Bradley Meacham	Peter Nickerson
Sandra Driscoll	Robert Klein	Steve Marshall	Kristin Peterson

810 Third Ave, Suite 224  
Seattle, WA 98104

206-622-8333 phone  
425-671-0506 fax  
admin@munileague.org  
www.munileague.org

### 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).