



League's Ratings of Elections Director Candidates Prove Valuable in Low-Turnout Election

Earlier this year the Municipal League played an important role in a special election held February 3 to fill the seat for the newly created position of King County Elections Director. Voters decided last fall that the person who leads King County's elections department should be directly elected, so the League filled a void by helping voters learn which candidates could do the best job in that office.

The League put together a special Candidate Evaluation Committee to review the candidates. Since turnout for special elections is traditionally low, the League took great pride in providing voters with information about this race. The League published the results and held public forums with all the candidates in Seattle and the Eastside.

The League's nonpartisan ratings are based on four criteria: Knowledge, Involvement, Effectiveness and Character. The ratings assess each candidate's potential to be successful in office and ability to serve the community. They don't consider political affiliations or stands on issues. Candidates also aren't rated against each other.

Voters apparently agreed with our ratings as Sherril Huff won with 46.33% of the vote. Turnout for the special all mail-in election was a mere 22%.

Candidates	Ratings	Results
Bill Anderson	Very Good	8.06%
Chris Clifford	Adequate	3.58%
Sherril Huff	Outstanding	46.33%
David Irons	Outstanding	19.37%
Julie Kempf	Adequate	6.35%
Pam Roach	Adequate	15.81%

The League thanks Paul Barden, Alex Bolton, Andrew Drake, Sandra Driscoll, Norma Jean Hanson, Brigitte Helsten, John Jensen, Dell Patterson, Karen Portzer, Bill Roach, Phil Rourke, Jay See and Matt Stubbs for serving on this committee. Without their help, these ratings would not have been possible.

We are now taking applications for 2009 Candidate Investigators to review this year's races including: city councils, mayors, King County Council, King County Executive, Port of Seattle commission and school boards. Please contact Gabe Meyer at gabe4munileague@gmail.com or 206-999-4071 for more information.

Join Us for the 50th Annual Civic Awards!

In 1960 the Municipal League hosted its first Civic Awards ceremony to honor those in our community who work toward better government and greater civic participation.

In that first year we gave out three awards: Citizen of the Year to Jim Ellis, Public Official of the Year to Seattle Fire Chief William Fitzgerald and Organization of the Year to the League of Women Voters.

Since then we have grown the ceremony to include nine award categories and have honored a total of more than 300 individuals and organizations.

This year we are honoring eight individuals and three organizations. It will be a fun evening with great awardees, presenters, past honorees and supporters of good government.

2009 Civic Awards
Seattle Art Museum
Wednesday March 25th
6-8:30 PM
Tickets online at
www.munileague.org or
by calling 206-622-8333

View from the Chair

The Municipal League kicked off this year busily doing what we're best known for: evaluating candidates for public office.

Through the holiday season, the League recruited a team of volunteers to visit the new county elections center in Renton, study the process of holding elections in a county of 1.9 million people and then interview and evaluate six candidates.

In casual conversation around our region, I heard citizens (ranging from folks at Microsoft to professional moms) say they might have just skipped the special February election altogether -- without the League's ratings to guide them.

That's one small example of the importance of the League in our community. The League performs an essential service, especially at a time when interest groups tug in every direction and local media have less ability to report on government.

Consider our effort to improve Metro transit. After months of study, we released a detailed report filled with concrete recommendations to make the bus system more efficient while better serving the entire county. We've been meeting with stakeholders and setting up a process to make sure the recommendations are implemented. Now that we're in an unprecedented economic downturn, the League is uniquely positioned to help improve bus service rather than just cut it.

All of this happens because of individuals who give time and energy -- and because of the generosity of donors who provide the support necessary to facilitate the volunteers and get the results to the public. We ask that you dig deep to make a financial contribution to ensure the League can continue to empower King County's citizens.

The upcoming Civic Awards -- the 50th annual -- is a great opportunity to celebrate the people who make our community stronger by promoting better government. See you there!



Municipal League Chair Brad Meacham

2009 Civic Award Honorees



Citizen of the Year—Cary Moon, Peoples Waterfront Coalition

Presented by Denis Hayes, Executive Director, Bullitt Foundation

Cary Moon, co-founder of People's Waterfront Coalition rose to fame for pushing the "surface/transit option" as an alternative to rebuilding Seattle's Alaskan Way Viaduct. Winner of a 2007 Stranger "Genius Award," she has been an integral force in transforming dialogue surrounding infrastructure and planning for the greater Seattle area. Since forming the People's Waterfront Coalition in 1994, Moon has worked with several politicians and agencies to promote effective solutions to the issues that face our region.



Public Official of the Year – Mayor Ava Frisinger, City of Issaquah

Presented by Councilman Fred Butler, City of Issaquah

Ava Frisinger is currently serving her third term as mayor of Issaquah. In addition to serving in public office, she volunteers her time to more than eight regional committees, commissions and boards, covering a variety of issues, from affordable housing to environmental stewardship, transportation and public health. Mayor Frisinger is known for her dedication to the health, progress and sustainability of Issaquah and the surrounding communities and her commitment to solving local and regional issues.



Public Employee of the Year – Allen Church, Fire Chief/Administrator, South King Fire & Rescue

Presented by William "Bill" Gates

Allen Church has been the Fire Chief/Administrator for South King Fire & Rescue for the past eight years and has been in fire service for almost 33 years, holding every rank and position in the fire department. Among his accomplishments, "Al" serves as the Washington Fire Chiefs Legislative Chair, where he has been instrumental in helping to pass several bills, including a multi lid lift bill, the Dividend Medicare Referendum Bill and the Fire Safe Cigarettes Bill.



Business of the Year – Force 10 Hoops (Owners of the Seattle Storm)

Presented by Vickie Wallen, Municipal League Board Member

Force 10 Hoops LLC was created when four Seattle Storm fans stepped in to keep the popular WNBA team in Seattle after franchise owner Clay Bennett announced that he would be selling the team along with the Seattle Sonics. Anne Levinson, Lisa Brummel, Ginny Gilder and Dawn Trudeau stepped in with \$10 million to save a regional institution, showing how private initiative supports the public interest.



Organization of the Year – Seattle Works

Presented by Dan Evans Jr.

Seattle Works was started in 1989 by a group of twenty-somethings looking for inventive alternatives to the “charity ball” brand of giving back to the community. Today, they are a premier network of young “volunteers, activists and patrons” working to impact our community. Seattle Works offers volunteer programs and educational opportunities, as well as offering members many opportunities to connect with public officials and emerging leaders. This year is the group’s 20th anniversary.



James R. Ellis Regional Leadership – Joni Earl, CEO, Sound Transit

Presented by Sally Jewell, CEO, REI

Joni Earl, has been the CEO of Sound Transit since 2001 and has worked tirelessly to build credibility and secure federal funding for the agency. She was instrumental in the 2008 passage of the ST2 expansion of regional transit by working with the Sound Transit staff and board, constituencies and agencies across the region.



James R. Ellis Regional Leadership – Mayor Greg Nickels, Chair, Sound Transit Board of Directors

Presented by former Mayor Norm Rice
Greg Nickels has served as Seattle mayor since 2002 and has been on the Sound Transit Board of Directors since its inception. Mayor Nickels was the lead advocate of the re-imagined transit package for the 2008 ballot, working to bring Snohomish, Pierce and King County agencies and constituencies to the table and building consensus, leading to the measure’s success.



Doug Mason Award – Brice Maryman, Open Space Seattle 2100

Presented by Mike McGinn, Executive Director, Seattle Great City Initiative

Brice Maryman co-directed the Open Space Seattle 2100 planning effort in 2005 and then helped form the Green Legacy Coalition as part of his work with Seattle Great City Initiative. After lobbying behind the scenes to convince the city council to put a renewal of the parks levy on the ballot, Maryman and the Green Legacy Coalition worked to build momentum for the levy, which passed handily.



Warren G. Magnuson Award – The Evans School of Public Affairs

Presented by Colleen Willoughby, Washington Women’s Foundation

The Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington is the region’s pre-eminent graduate school of public policy and management, educating many civic leaders, policy analysts and community advocates in the Pacific Northwest.



Mary Skelton Volunteer Award – Bruce D. Carter

Presented by Robert Klein, Chair, Municipal League Foundation

Bruce Carter’s commitment to the League dates back to 1978. His dedication to improving the quality of government includes a career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, where he uncovered governmental corruption across the region. He has served as a Candidate Investigator, League Chair and now heads up our Port Study Committee.



Mary Skelton Volunteer Award – Norma Jean Hanson

Presented by Sandra Driscoll, Municipal League Foundation Board Member

Norma Jean Hanson is one of the League’s longest-serving volunteers. Since the early 1990s, she has been Candidate Investigator, and recently served as chair of the Judicial and Elections Director Committees. Hanson also served Municipal League and Foundation boards. We look forward to her continued commitment and energy as a volunteer for Candidate Evaluation program this summer.

Award Categories

- **Citizen of the Year**
A private citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to the cause of good government or civic betterment.
- **Public Official of the Year**
The elected or appointed public official or department head who, in addition to routine service, has brought to the office one or more outstanding innovations or contributions.
- **Public Employee of the Year**
A civil servant who has launched one or more outstanding innovations or constructive programs.
- **Business of the Year**
A business that has made an outstanding contribution to the community in the previous year.
- **Organization of the Year**
An organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the community in the previous year.
- **James R. Ellis Regional Leadership**
The individual or organization who, through appointed, elected, commissioned or volunteer service, has contributed significant leadership to the region in the examination of regional public policy.
- **Doug Mason Memorial**
A person 35 or under who has made a major contribution to the people of King County in any of the following areas: environmental protection and preservation, agricultural preservation, transportation, human services, housing, good government, ethics in politics or good government.
- **Warren G. Magnuson Memorial**
An individual who, while serving in a public office other than local government, has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of local government.
- **Mary Skelton Memorial**
A Municipal League volunteer who has given outstanding service in support of our mission.

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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.