



Ballot Measure Recommendations

Our recommendations were determined by citizen volunteers who studied each issue and heard from parties on all sides.

These recommendations would not have been possible without their efforts and we thank them for their time and commitment to the Municipal League.

Below are the recommendations of the Municipal League on several measures that will appear on the November ballot. The League has produced a detailed report on each recommendation that outlines the pros and cons of the measures. They are available online at www.munileague.org.

Sound Transit and RTID Proposition No. 1 -- YES.

Proposition 1 represents a large and vital move forward in addressing road and transit requirements in the region. The need for systemic regional transportation investments becomes more urgent with each passing year. This measure makes reasonable use of the limited taxes, fees and revenues. A failure to act on this opportunity in hopes of better, different solutions (to be crafted, approved and implemented later) will likely result in less functional and (in many cases) more expensive fixes.

Initiative 25 (Making King County Elections Director an Elected Position) -- NO.

There are real problems with the King County elections system which need to be corrected. They should be addressed by the King County Council and Executive through legislation and administrative re-organization. We are disappointed that this has not occurred. Politicizing the elections office is not the best way to address these known issues.

Initiative 960 (Supermajority for State Tax Increases) -- NO.

Requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature for passage of any tax bill gives too much power to the minority -- the one-third of the legislators who oppose the tax. Representative government is based on allowing a majority of our elected officials to make decisions for us. If we are displeased with their decisions, we can work to defeat them at the next election.

EHJR 4204 (Constitutional Amendment on School Levies) -- YES.

It is inconsistent and unfair to set a higher bar for school levies than the simple majority governments must meet for all other excess levy programs. In King County we now regularly authorize excess levies with a simple majority vote for parks, transportation, affordable housing, automated fingerprinting systems and emergency medical services. In this funding environment, continuing to require schools to meet a supermajority threshold and a 40% validation requirement confounds common sense.

Volunteers of the League's Ballot Issues Committee spent long hours studying these ballot issues in order to make reasoned recommendations to the Municipal League board of trustees. The committee is chaired by the League's Volunteer of the Year, Kathy Elias. We thank Kathy and all of our volunteers for their time and expertise. Anyone who is interested in serving on our Transportation Committee or Ballot Issues Committee may contact the League at admin@munileague.org or 206-622-8333.

What's happening

Long-Range Studies

The Municipal League is currently undertaking two long-range studies – the results of which will be released in 2008. The two studies will look at the Port of Seattle and at the ongoing challenges around property rights and land use regulation.

Historically, the League played an integral role in the establishment of the Port of Seattle. This study, due to begin in November of this year, will review the Port's governance structure and make recommendations for the future.

The property rights and land use regulation study group is reviewing a wide range of perspectives on the frequently contentious issues around growth management, land use and property rights. The goal of the study committee is to see if a permanent and fair solution can be revealed that meets the reasonable needs of property owners, communities and governments.

We encourage participation in these studies. Anyone interested in these and other public policy matters facing King County is urged to participate in the Issues Management Committee or any of our study committees. To participate, contact the League office at admin@munileague.org or 206-622-8333.

Municipal League Foundation Report

The Municipal League Foundation is been hosting candidate forums across the county.

On September 20th, candidates running in contested races for Bellevue and Redmond Bellevue City Council met for a forum at Microsoft.

On October 3rd and October 10th we co-hosted two well attended debates with the candidates for King County Prosecutor. A streaming video of the October 3rd debate can be found on the King County Television website.

On October 24th, candidates for Seattle City Council will meet for a forum at Microsoft.

Former Municipal League Chair, Rita Brogan, hosts *Muni Forum* on King County Television. *Muni Forum* currently features two candidate forums. One with the candidates for prosecutor and the other with the candidates for Port Commissioner. Both are now showing on King County Television and available on their website.

In addition to these forums, the League Foundation is currently presenting a series of basic web trainings on researching candidates or ballot issues over the internet. These sessions are being held at senior and community centers around Seattle and are part of a technology grant from the City of Seattle. Visit our website for details.

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Visit the League website for in-depth information about current issues facing King County www.munileague.org