The City of Seattle is a Charter City that has a Mayor/Council form of government. Both the Mayor and Council are full-time, nonpartisan, elected officials, who are elected to four-year terms. Together the Mayor and Council are responsible for the conduct of City government. Elections for these and all local government positions are held in odd-numbered years.

The Mayor of the City of Seattle is the chief executive officer of the City and is charged with the enforcement of City and state law, of City contracts, and the maintenance of order. The Mayor directs and controls all subordinate officers of the City, unless otherwise provided for by the City Charter. Departments in the City of Seattle include two major utilities, Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light, administrative departments, such as the Department of Finance and the Department of Fleets and Facilities; public safety departments, such as the Police and Fire Departments; and social service providers, such as the Department of Housing and the Department of Human Services. All of these operate under the Mayor’s direction and control. In addition, the Mayor’s office is responsible for applying for federal funds and preparing the entire City budget.

The Mayor appoints, subject to the approval of the City Council, most of the heads of departments. The Mayor may override such vetoes by a two-thirds majority vote.

The Seattle City Council is the City’s elected legislature. The nine members determine City policy through enactment of ordinances and the adoption of resolutions. The Council authorizes public improvements and expenditures, provides for public safety and health, adopts regulations, levies taxes, controls the finances and property of the City and performs many related legislative tasks. All ordinances enacted by the Council are subject to Mayoral veto, which may be overridden by a vote of six Councilmembers.

If you wish to become active in a candidate or ballot issue campaign, you can contact the committee listed with each candidate statement and each ballot issue argument. Go to the SEEC web site, www.seattle.gov/elections, to find contact information for candidates and issues on the City of Seattle ballot in 2005.

Candidate and ballot issue committees need campaign contributions to give voters the necessary information to make informed choices. Therefore, another method of participating in the election process is to contribute to committees organized to promote candidates or to promote or oppose ballot issues. The following are some key City and State regulations that apply to campaign contributions:

- Candidate and ballot issue committees may accept monetary and in-kind contributions (monetary contributions of $60 or more must be by check or money order).
- No campaign may accept currency contributions of more than $60. Monetary contributions that total more than $60 and are made by a single contributor must be by written instrument.
- Seattle City office candidates (Mayor, City Council, City Attorney) may accept no more than $650 (in monetary and/or in-kind contributions) from each contributor, over a four year period. The four year period for the candidates whose names will appear on the 2005 Primary election ballot began on May 1, 2002 and will end on April 30, 2006.
- Ballot issue committees may not accept contributions of more than $5,000 during the last 21 days before the Primary Election or within the last 21 days before the General Election.
- Campaigns are required to report employer and occupation information for each individual who contributes more than $100. Individuals must provide their employer’s name, city and state as well as their occupation. A contributor who is self-employed must provide the campaign with the name under which he or she does business.

email: polly.grow@seattle.gov
Internet: www.seattle.gov/elections
Being elected your mayor four years ago was a great honor. After 9-11, Seattle was facing major challenges, including restoring public confidence in our City. Today, I see more optimism than ever before.

People are no longer fearful at public gatherings, more neighborhoods are thriving and we are creating jobs.

We did this by focusing on the basics and four key priorities:

- Getting Seattle moving
- Keeping our neighborhoods safe
- Creating jobs and economic opportunity for all
- Building strong families and healthy communities

The basics include filling potholes and making sure that a real person answers the phone when you call. We’re putting more officers on the street and helping small businesses stay in business.

We’ve also been working on the big things.

Soon we will have a light rail system and transit hubs where people have choices other than clogged roads.

We’ve made progress to make Seattle the most prepared city in America, whether from natural or man-made disasters. We have plans to ensure we have access to water, electricity and are ready to help our most vulnerable citizens.

You have shown confidence in our efforts by approving a fire safety levy that will strengthen all fire stations to prevent them from collapsing in an earthquake.

You said yes to creating housing for working families and the homeless and to helping our children succeed in school.

Optimism is on the rise because we’re transforming previously neglected neighborhoods such as Northgate, the U-District, Broadway and the Rainier Valley.

We’re also leading the way in environmental protection. This year I challenged mayors from across America to help reduce global warming. Since our nation’s capitol has turned a deaf ear toward climate disruption, we will provide the leadership city by city.

We have set a new direction, but there is still much to do. I want to make our center city neighborhoods more livable by adding housing and putting parks and grocery stores near transit.

We must address the achievement gap in our public schools so that our children can be a part of the 21st Century economy.

We need to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct with a tunnel and open our waterfront for the first time in half a century.

You hired me as Mayor to make tough decisions and real progress.

I hope I have earned your vote to serve a second term as Seattle’s Mayor. Please re-elect Greg Nickels, Mayor.

Join the many voters in this year’s primary election who agreed it is time for a change when they voted for a new mayor.

Al Runte wants to be that mayor to provide effective leadership, putting the neighborhoods first. He is a historian and former professor at the UW. He is an expert on things that matter to Seattleites – our precious environment and transportation.

Al Runte will resolve the monorail fiasco, rebuild the viaduct, and serve neighborhoods by addressing our $500 million public works backlog. The proper maintenance of Seattle’s streets, infrastructure, and parks is decades overdue.

Professor Runte’s campaign has not accepted one dime from developers. By electing Runte mayor, you will get a no-strings attached executive dedicated to serving people.

Mayor Runte will work constructively with the City Council – and fully consult with every neighborhood – diligently avoiding the political grandstanding that destroys citizens’ faith in their government.

In short, Al has been listening to you. Now, if elected, he will:

- Rebuild the Alaska Way Viaduct ABOVE ground.
- NO BIG DIG TUNNEL.
- Prepare a practical, coordinated transit plan for Seattle’s future guided by gifted engineers, not boards of amateurs.

- Protect and nurture city parks. NO PARKING GARAGE AT THE ZOO.
- Terminate plans for an extravagant $50 million plus, publicly-funded South Lake Union streetcar.
- Add more neighborhood buses with increased frequencies.
- Prevent Southwest Airlines from moving to Boeing Field.
- Restore First Hill’s light-rail station and reopen the downtown bus tunnel.
- Increase emergency preparedness by restoring the ranks of police and firefighters.
- Fully engage the young people of this city in their government, inviting their increased participation in City Hall as those who will inherit its decisions.

Al is 58. He and his wife of 21 years, Christine, have lived in the same North Seattle home since 1984. After Al’s father, a union machinist, died when Al was eleven, he was raised by his single mom, a public school secretary. Al put himself through college earning three degrees in history and government, including a Ph.D. He has taught at five different institutions of higher learning and is the author of six books. Currently, he is an advisor to Ken Burns for an upcoming PBS television series on the national parks. An internationally recognized environmentalist, Professor Runte was keynote speaker last year at the Fourth Brazilian Congress on Parks and Protected Areas.
Candidates are solely responsible for the contents of their statements.

STATEMENT GUIDELINES

In addition to the candidates’ photos and statements, this pamphlet includes guidelines for the candidates in developing their statements. These guidelines were derived from America’s Aspirations For Political Leaders, developed and published by The Harwood Institute in the New Patriotism Project, which can be found at http://www.theharwoodinstitute.org.

Guidelines: The purpose of the voters’ pamphlet is to introduce the candidates to the public. Therefore, candidates are asked to do the following in their written submittals (statements):

- Tell who you are
- Show that you understand this community and its concerns
- Explain where you stand
- Be forthright, and
- Set a respectful tone

Tom Carr

Tel: (206) 354-9966
tomcarrforcityattorney@comcast.net

Seattle is a wonderful city with terrific neighborhoods. As your City Attorney, I am proud to have worked for the last four years to make it even better.

We face many challenges as a City. The City Attorney’s role is to help the Mayor and the City Council work together to face these challenges and make our city better. I work for the people of Seattle, through cooperation, innovation and effectiveness.

We must work together to meet the City’s needs. For our major projects, including the viaduct, the monorail and Sound Transit light rail, we have lawyers working in a coordinated effort to provide the Mayor and Council quick and accurate legal advice on these complex projects.

It is better to prevent a problem than defend a lawsuit. As City Attorney, I have expanded the work of our lawyers to train city departments and emphasized risk management to avoid the mistakes that create lawsuits. Reducing the amount the city pays out in lawsuits leaves more money to provide essential city services.

The City Attorney’s office prosecutes those who commit crimes such as minor assaults, shoplifting and criminal trespass. Most of those defendants are addicted to drugs or alcohol. Jail is an expensive and often ineffective way to prevent them from offending. I helped create the first Community Court in the State of Washington which requires these offenders to give back to the community by working to clean up the streets and gives them the help they need to defeat their addictions.

We have expanded the fight against Domestic Violence. We created a program to identify serial batterers and to devote additional resources to their prosecution and conviction. We have created the first victim safety inventory, which is a series of questions we ask every victim. This allows us to know better the risks each individual faces.

We have taken other innovative approaches. This year we started filing auto theft cases as misdemeanors, allowing us to ask for longer sentences. Today we have several former car thieves, some who admitted stealing several cars a day, serving long jail sentences. We also created a legal clinic which allows law students to gain experience by prosecuting traffic infractions. This is a step toward making Seattle’s streets safer.

Cooperation, innovation and effectiveness have guided my work as your City Attorney. I hope to serve you for four more years.
Richard Conlin
www.richardconlin.com

P-I columnist Joel Connelly named Richard Conlin “Gutsy Local Politico of the Year,” and the Puget Sound Business Journal called Conlin a “hero” for his critical questions about the big, expensive projects that many politicians rush into.

“Conlin asked the right questions on the monorail and owns high ground on that issue.” — Seattle Times

“Seattle residents benefit from Conlin’s willingness to ask hard questions...” — Seattle P-I

“Richard Conlin is the only elected official at City Hall who has been consistently opposed to the People’s Boondoggle (aka the monorail). For that reason alone, he deserves your support. But there are many more good things about Conlin.” — Seattle Weekly

“Richard’s thoughtful leadership brought opposing sides together to create innovative solutions for Seattle and prevented costly misjudgments.” — Jim Diers, former Director, Department of Neighborhoods

“...Conlin’s steady hand has guided the council to put the brakes on bad ideas and come up with smart compromise solutions. He’s been a relentless advocate for health and human services...”

— The Stranger

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Councilmember. I’ve worked to make Seattle safe and get Seattle moving by initiating emergency plans for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and SR520 and leading the efforts to replace them.

My goal is to support healthy families and communities. I will work to create a thriving downtown and vibrant neighborhoods connected by a variety of transportation choices. My environmental accomplishments and determination to maintain our quality of life have won me the support of environmental leaders.

Sue Ann and I have lived in Madrona for 24 years. Our three children graduated from Seattle Public Schools. With your vote, I pledge to continue working with you to keep Seattle a place we are proud to call home.

My priorities include:
- Create a coordinated, regional transit system.
- Replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct and SR520 Bridge before disaster happens.
- Complete light rail to Northgate, the airport, and across I-90 and SR520.
- Keep government open and transparent.
- Require fiscal accountability on projects.

Endorsed By:
- All Democratic Legislative District Organizations, King County Democratic Party
- Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Voters, Cascade Bicycle Club
- Seattle Firefighters, Seattle Police Management Association
- Seattle P-I, Seattle Weekly, Stranger, West Seattle Herald
- “A” in all SEAMEC categories
- King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Allied Arts
- Business, community, and human services leaders, for complete list: www.richardconlin.com

Paige Miller
www.paigemiller.org

Paige Miller Knows Which Way To Go

Decisive

“Miller would be a leader and a doer on the Council.” — The Seattle Times

Paige Miller will bring firm, decisive leadership to City Hall to develop mass transit, replace the Viaduct and improve our public schools.

Paige believes that developing mass transit solutions is the key to solving our traffic problems. With the increasing price of gasoline and our dependency on foreign oil, it’s more important than ever that Seattle stops changing directions and builds convenient mass transit in a timely and affordable manner.

She also believes mass transit that is linked together will make it easier to build the kind of affordable homes that will attract families with children back to our city and keep us from continuing to face the terrible choice of cutting programs or closing schools.

Experienced

As a Port of Seattle Commissioner, Paige Miller brought us that kind of leadership—extending light rail to the airport, building the 3rd Runway and saving Seattle’s waterfront trolley.

She voted to invest in cargo terminals and to revitalize Seattle’s waterfront with offices, restaurants, housing and open space.

Thanks to her efforts, Seattle saw a record amount of cargo come through its piers last year and thousands of new jobs were created.

Paige also created Port Jobs, a nonprofit organization that has helped connect 7,000 women, minorities and disabled individuals with living wage jobs.

Leadership

Paige believes endless studying without solutions will lead to further gridlock. That’s why she led our region to a decision to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct. She will oppose any efforts to tear the Viaduct down without replacing it.

She supports extending light rail to Northgate; replacing the 520 bridge to link up with other transit hubs; rebidding the Monorail project to fit within the financing limits the voters approved and direct election of Monorail board members to ensure more accountability.

Endorsed

The Seattle Times, King County Women’s Political Caucus, Seattle Police Officers’ Guild, Former Governor Gary Locke, Supreme Ct. Justice Charles Z. Smith (retired), former Seattle mayors Wes Uhlman and Paul Schell, Sea-Tac mayor Frank Hansen; King County Council President Larry Phillips; Port Commissioners Bob Edwards and Pat Davis; State Senators Jeanne Kohl-Welles and Paul Shin; former Seattle City Councilmember Tina Podlodowski.
Jan Drago
www.jandrago.com
Tel: (206) 261-0418 teamdrago@hotmail.com
PO Box 94317, Seattle, WA 98124

I have a straightforward approach to public service: listen, lead, and focus on results.

These skills were developed over a lifetime as a teacher, mother and grandmother, small business owner and neighborhood public safety advocate.

As your councilmember I am focused and responsive—I take charge on big issues and work hard to solve constituent concerns.

My record reflects the mainstream values of our city, and I’m excited to continue serving the people of Seattle:

- **BETTER TRANSPORTATION:** Even in tough economic times I’ve assured funding basics like maintaining streets and bridges. I’ve fought for our share of money for priorities like the Viaduct and light rail.

  * I will make the viaduct replacement and transportation improvements my primary focus for the next four years—nothing is more important for our economy and quality of life.

- **EFFICIENT TRANSIT:** Seattle needs integrated transit solutions to move people, reduce traffic and protect air quality. I’ve helped make sure light rail serves our neighborhoods—and I’ll work to extend the line to Northgate.

  * I was the first council member to demand that the Monorail Board develop a cost-effective solution or end the tax, and will continue to demand accountability.

Casey Corr
www.caseycorr.com
Tel: (206) 524-6272 casey@caseycorr.com
PO Box 15781, Seattle, WA 98115

Casey Corr for an Effective City Council

The Monorail mess is one of many examples of why we need change on the city council. We need leaders who pay attention and solve problems. Casey Corr has courage and a passion for our great city. He listens. He speaks his mind. He works hard. To better represent you, he visited more than 8,000 homes across Seattle.

Casey will bring needed leadership to transportation.

The status quo is not getting the results we need. Casey will bring strong leadership to improve bus service and expand transit, replace the Viaduct, and fix our roads and sidewalks.

Casey will work with the school district to improve schools in every neighborhood. Casey will lead city government to improve finances, accountability and quality in our schools. He is the only candidate with a comprehensive plan to help schools.

Casey will get more police to patrol our neighborhoods. Seattle has fewer police now than it did 12 years ago. Casey will lead the council to restore funding.

Casey comes from a family that is committed to public service. His father, Eugene Corr, helped lead corruption in the Seattle Police Department. As a journalist with the Seattle P-I and the Seattle Times, Casey was a strong voice for accountability, social justice, transit, the Seattle Center and libraries, and enforcement of environmental laws.

Casey earned a master of public administration at the Kennedy School of Government. Casey and his wife, Sally Tonkin, are raising their two children in Seattle. He served as a youth basketball coach, church and school volunteer, and has served on the board of his neighborhood community council.

Casey knows how to lead, organize and get results.

He served in the Mayor’s office as a leader in levy campaigns for building affordable housing, helping families and children, and rebuilding our fire stations. He was the city’s lead on organizing support for replacement of the Viaduct, an effort that helped secure $2 billion for Seattle.

Please visit www.caseycorr.com to learn about Casey’s ideas for Seattle.

Casey Corr is supported by a broad coalition of civic, labor, business and community leaders and organizations including: The Seattle Weekly, Teamster’s Joint Council 28, UFCW, SEIU 775, Laborers 440, Bob Santos, Greg Nickels, Sue Tupper, Meade Emory, Dan Evans, Murray Guterson, Sonny Sixkiller, Charles Royer, Jeanette Williams, Dolores Sibonga and many others.

Please vote for Casey – for an effective city council.
Candidates are solely responsible for the contents of their statements.

City Council Position No. 6

Nick Licata
www.nicklicata.com
Tel: (206) 547-2306
licatacampaign05@aol.com

I came to Seattle 35 years ago to attend the University of Washington – and never left. You probably know the reasons why, they may be the same ones that keep you in Seattle.

I had fallen in love with this city’s great natural beauty, but something else, too. Seattle was a rare outpost where people believed that community engagement enriched their lives. As a sociology student, I had come to study community dynamics. But here you could live the experience.

After two terms on the Seattle City Council, I still believe in preserving and nurturing communities. The art of politics is melding competing individual interests into a rich tapestry that all want to participate in. A vibrant, dynamic metropolitan area raises all boats together through a fair and equal distribution of resources.

The core values that I had when I was an insurance broker, working as a citizen leader in the University District Community Council or the International District Rotary Club, or when I was the director of the Washington Public Interest Research Group or President of the Metropolitan Democratic Club, are the same ones that I have today as a member of the Seattle City Council.

Paul Bascomb
Tel: (206) 328-8744 Fax: (206) 324-0987
pbascomb@mindspring.com

My name is Paul Bascomb, I was born in Bremerton Washington and my family came to Seattle when I was three weeks old. I attended Childhaven Daycare and then entered public school at Bailey Gatzert Elementary. I attended Washington Junior High School, entered high school at Garfield High, and graduated from Cleveland High School.

I had the blessing of growing up in a very rich diversified community which included children from what was then called Chinatown (now expressed to some as the International District), also there were many young Jewish, Russian and Japanese playmates that made up a diverse ethnic and racial melting pot, all from whom I also acquired a strong sense of community and family unity.

I was fortunate to be mentored by an astonishing social worker named Ida Chamblis from the YWCA. Ida nurtured in me the desire to help the less fortunate and attempt to be a positive example for all I met and greeted. We have drifted away from what has made the American social system one of the greatest systems in history, which is sacrificing some personal desires for the benefit of the community and the city.

I believe that our tax dollars should be distributed fairly across the city so that no communities are ignored and all have an opportunity to prosper. That means, for example, we do not take future bus service away from neighborhoods across Seattle to subsidize just a single one-mile trolley in South Lake Union.

I believe that public investments must be cost-effective — producing the maximum benefit for the minimum public expense. That means if we fail to secure federal funding for a six-lane downtown tunnel to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct by fall of next year, we must choose the cheaper rebuild option to save local residents from a tax burden that could exceed a billion dollars.

I believe that government must make decisions in a public manner so that citizens understand how the City allocates our resources. That means more than holding public hearings. Information must be shared with the public. When I informed Seattle residents how much holding the Olympic Games here would cost them, they made their voice heard loud and clear, putting an end to the proposal.

By holding to fundamental democratic values, I have saved the public millions of dollars and helped Seattle protect its quality of life.

I have chosen to step up at this time to make my contribution to the betterment of our beloved city of Seattle. In the past few years I have sat in anguish as our city has fallen to mediocrity and apathy. Great apathy and disillusionment has been created in our city from the lack of effective leadership. We are at least 20 years behind what should have been done in our transportation, education and environmental concerns. I am asking for your support and vote to elect me to Position #6 on the Seattle City Council. I want to “PUT THE LUSTER BACK ON SEATTLE” AND “MAKE THE 20 YEAR LEAP” to a city with a vibrant economy, an exceptional futuristic transportation system for our businesses and citizens. We need to promote culturally rich society that provides energy for our young and security for our fabulous Seniors. I NEED your SUPPORT and VOTE to accomplish this end.

In return I will give decisive action to the needs of our city, ethical conduct in office, and an open mind to the changes that benefit our great city and region.

Thank you.
City Council Position No. 8

Richard J. Mclver
www.richardmclver.com
Tel: (206) 621-5304 Fax: (206) 624-7135
mclver2005@comcast.net

“RICHARD MCIVER SETS HIMSELF APART...WITH A RECORD OF STEADY RESPONSIVENESS ON KEY ISSUES AFFECTING A BROAD SECTION OF SEATTLE.” - SEATTLE TIMES (9/18/05)

THANK YOU for the privilege and honor of serving you. I offer a record of accomplishment in the public and private sectors that is thoughtful, honest and fair. I will continue to ask tough questions and take principled stances, while respecting diversity of thought and opinion. While I’m proud of my accomplishments, I’ve never been a headline seeker. I’ve gone about my work on the Council by being a consistent independent voice, accountable to you – advocating for you.

As your City Councilmember, I will continue to be a: Responsible steward of public funds

- Voted against automatic property tax increase and, as Budget Chair, produced balanced budget without raising general taxes.
- Asked the tough questions about the Seattle Monorail Project when few elected officials were willing to do so.

Dwight Pelz will bring new energy and needed leadership to the City Council—improving oversight and focusing on results.

Dwight’s family has lived in Seattle for 5 generations. Throughout his career, he has fought for the people of Seattle. As a community organizer, he led the 1977 campaign that removed sales tax from food. As a State Senator and County Councilmember, Dwight voted to reduce property taxes for low-income seniors and protect services for children and the vulnerable.

Dwight Pelz will move Seattle forward.

Transit and Transportation Leadership
When light rail was in jeopardy, Dwight Pelz stepped forward. Under his watch, the project is now $260 million below budget and will connect Sea-Tac and the University.

As County Transportation Chair, Dwight is fighting to win resources for Viaduct repair, local roads, and transit.

On the City Council Dwight will continue getting results—brining light rail to Northgate and replacing the Viaduct.

Improving Education
Dwight is married to a Seattle schoolteacher and father of two Seattle public school grads. As Chair of the State Senate Education Committee, Dwight won $130 million for Seattle Schools.

Dwight is the only Council candidate with a realistic proposal to assist our schools: have the City take over maintenance of school properties. We already take care of our Parks, let’s extend those services to schoolyards.

Protecting Our Environment
By concentrating new, affordable housing downtown and near light rail stations, we can get people out of cars, create jobs, preserve single family neighborhoods—and protect rural King County farmland. Dwight is endorsed by the Sierra Club, Washington Conservation Voters, and Cascade Bicycle Club.

Dwight is a recognized leader in growth management and open space protection, and will bring that expertise to the City Council.

Helping Neighborhoods
Dwight Pelz has represented the diverse neighborhoods of South East Seattle for over 15 years. He gets results for constituents and communities.

He helped Rainier Valley business owners reduce crime and worked with Roosevelt residents to plan their light rail station. Dwight Pelz will bring a renewed focus on neighborhoods to the City Council.

Dwight Pelz is the only elected Democrat running for City Council. He is endorsed by King County Democrats, all five District Democrat organizations, Chair Paul Berendt, Speaker Frank Chopp, Larry Phillips, and Dow Constantine. Seattle Firefighters and unions including SEIU, Machinists, Plumbers, IFPTE Local 17. SEAMEC=4; “Very Good” Municipal League.

Elect Dwight Pelz City Council: Moving Seattle Forward
Advisory Measure No. 1

Ballot Title

Advisory ballot measure No. 1 concerns the right to health care.

If approved, the measure would advise the mayor and city council that every person in the U.S. should have an equal right to quality health care, and that Congress should implement that right. The measure would advise the City to take steps to secure that right, including: requesting legislation, supporting education and advocacy, publishing a report on local health-care access, and convening an expert panel to advise the City and private employers on improving insurance coverage for Seattle residents.

Should this advisory measure be approved?
Yes
No

City Attorney’s Explanatory Statement

The effect of the advisory measure if approved:

This is an advisory measure and by itself would change no laws. Instead, voters would advise the mayor and city council members that every person in the United States should have the right to health care of equal high quality, and that Congress should immediately enact legislation to implement this right.

The measure also would advise the City to take the necessary steps to help realize this right for Seattle residents and others. These steps would include but would not be limited to the following:

- Asking Washington state and congressional lawmakers to adopt legislation that provides universal access to high-quality health care.
- Asking Washington state legislators to support the City’s efforts and work toward the goal of universal access to high-quality health care.
- Supporting advocacy and public education on the issue of high-quality universal health care.
- Researching ways that the City Council can improve health-care access for the uninsured.
- Compiling data and publishing an annual report on local health-care indicators, including information on access to health care.
- Convening a panel of experts to prepare a report and make recommendations to the City about specific steps that the City and private employers could take to prove insurance coverage for Seattle residents.

Full Text

AN ORDINANCE submitting an advisory ballot measure concerning health care to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle, at the general election to be held on November 8, 2005; calling upon the City Clerk to certify the proposed measure to the Director of Elections of King County; and requesting the Director of Records and Elections to submit the measure to the qualified electors.

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council recognizes that it is increasingly difficult for many Seattle residents to obtain quality health care; and
WHEREAS, providing access to quality health care has moved the Seattle City Council to adopt Resolutions 30673 and 30582, both aimed at addressing health-care issues for citizens of the City of Seattle; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 11 percent of adults in Seattle do not have health insurance; and
WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children in Washington state has reached the highest level in more than a decade; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 50 percent of Washington state residents do not have dental insurance or rely on Medicaid for coverage; and
WHEREAS, Seattle’s community health centers and public health primary care clinics have a common mission to provide treatment for individuals regardless of their ability to pay; and
WHEREAS, in 2003, Seattle-based community health centers reported that 37 percent of patients for medical care and 42 percent of dental patients were uninsured or did not have the means to pay for their treatment; and
WHEREAS, as the costs of providing health and dental care continue to increase, Seattle’s community health centers and public health primary care clinics struggle to provide uncompensated care; and
WHEREAS, the lack of a rational system for funding and providing universal access to quality health care has led to a rapid increase in health-care costs in the United States, which now has the world’s highest per-capita health-care costs; and
WHEREAS, despite these high costs, the United States lags behind many other developed nations in terms of many indicators of its citizens’ health, including life-expectancy and infant mortality; and
WHEREAS, rising health-care costs have affected employers’ ability to provide health-care benefits for their workers and have sharply increased the costs of doing business; and
WHEREAS, the costs to the City of Seattle of providing health-care benefits to its employees has risen while City revenue has not kept pace; and
WHEREAS, only a rational system for financing and delivering quality health care will help ensure that all Americans have access to these necessary services at a cost that is reasonable to them and to their employers, including the City of Seattle; and
WHEREAS, at least eighteen states have introduced legislation regarding universal health care including California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New York and Vermont; and
WHEREAS, concerted action is necessary to encourage the United States Congress and other decision makers to design and fund a rational health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ADVISORY

The current health care system is under great strain. The cost of health care increases annually at three to four times the rate of inflation. An estimated 11% of the citizens of Seattle have no health insurance at all. Low-income adults are 10 times more likely to lack coverage than those of higher incomes. The fastest growing segment of the uninsured are the poorest families, those earning less than the federal poverty level (FPL). In all, over 60% of the uninsured are low income. Despite the rising number of uninsured children and adults, the rate of employer-based insurance continues to decrease. The percentage of people insured through their employers dropped to its lowest point in over 10 years - 60.2%. Children are significantly affected. In Washington State, there are now over 95,000 uninsured children or 5.8% of the state’s children. While the United States has the wealthiest health care system in the world it is unable to ensure basics like pre-natal care and immunizations. The U.S. trails most of the developed world on such indicators as infant mortality and life expectancy. Widely differing proposals are being discussed to address the crisis in U.S. health care. This advisory ballot makes no judgments upon these various efforts. It serves only to provide the residents of Seattle with an opportunity to speak with a unified voice in advising the City of Seattle to take concerted action to help ensure that every person in Seattle and, ultimately, the United States as a whole, has equal access to quality health care.

As such, do you agree that the voters give the following advisory to the Mayor and City Council members of the City of Seattle:

Every person in the United States should have the right to health care of equal high quality. The Congress should immediately enact legislation to implement this right.

The City should also take the necessary steps to help realize this right for Seattle residents and others, including but not limited to the following:

- Ask Washington State representatives and senators in the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation that provides universal access to quality health care.
- Ask the Washington State legislators to support our efforts and work toward this goal.
- Support education of the public about this issue and support advocacy on this issue.
- Research ways that the City Council can improve health care access for the uninsured.
- Convene a panel of experts to prepare a report and make recommendations to the City about specific steps that the City and Seattle private employers could take to improve insurance coverage for Seattle residents.

The above text is an exact reproduction of the text submitted by the sponsor. The Ethics and Elections Commission has no editorial authority.
Advisory Measure No. 1

Statement For Advisory Measure No. 1

Our “Yes!” vote on Advisory Ballot Measure No. 1 will drive home to our elected representatives from City Hall to Washington, DC, that the people of Seattle consider quality health care the right of everyone in the United States.

Not a privilege, restricted to people with insurance, but the birthright of every man, woman, and child.

This is a totally new use of the ballot. No measure quite like this has ever before been presented to the electorate. We, the people of Seattle, have a dramatic opportunity to sound a call for action that will resonate throughout the land.

In Abraham Lincoln’s phrase, this measure is “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Recognizing what nearly everyone now acknowledges, that our health care system is in deepening crisis, the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans and Health Care for All — Washington launched a bold initiative.

These two low-budget organizations, staffed entirely by volunteers, conceived of a way to give all Seattle an opportunity to endorse the idea of health care as a right.

People at the grassroots gathered more than 11,500 signatures of Seattle residents on petitions in support of this fundamental principle. A grassroots delegation presented the petitions to our City Council and won their unanimous agreement to place the measure on the ballot.

No profit-oriented special interest had any part in this endeavor. We in the United States spend more per capita on health care than any other nation. Yet 48 million of our people are uninsured. Other millions find the coverage offered by their employers eroding or disappearing entirely. Millions confront continually rising out-of-pocket costs — premiums, co-pays and deductibles. City, county, state and federal governments labor to keep abreast of health care’s budget-busting inflation.

Deepening public concern has given rise to widely differing corrective proposals. This ballot measure takes no position for or against any of these proposals.

Instead, it provides the people of Seattle with an historic opportunity to initiate a nation-wide movement for a solution — a movement directed toward action by the federal government, which alone has resources commensurate to the task.

Health care is indeed a right. With Advisory Ballot Measure No. 1, we can take a pioneering first step toward making this right a reality throughout the land.

Every “Yes” vote on Advisory Ballot Measure No. 1 adds weight to this grassroots citizen mandate for action.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The current system of health care is failing. Last year Harborview Hospital alone provided over $90,000,000 of health care to the uninsured. This is a national issue that profoundly affects the lives of people in Seattle and the City alone cannot meet the need.

The crisis has reached the point that we cannot afford to wait any longer. A strong yes” vote will be a message from this community for quality health care. A “yes” vote will add Seattle to the list of communities which are sending a strong message that we must have a solution.

It is appropriate for our elected City representatives to concern themselves with the health care of the people of our City. Indeed, few if any civic responsibilities rank higher.

Vote “Yes” to voice your support that everyone has a right to quality health care.

Statements Prepared By:
Will Parry, Steve Williamson, and Brian King

Statement Against Advisory Measure No. 1

Too few people have access to health care insurance. Those who have it pay far too much. Everyone should have access to affordable, quality health care. These core problems with America’s health care system must be fixed.

But, should we — indeed, can we — fix those problems with more studies conducted by City politicians? Do we want people like those who brought you Seattle’s monorail fiasco now turning their attention to universal health care?

Should the City Council convene a panel of “experts” with your money? Should the Seattle City Council compile data, and conduct research for the purpose of advising or demanding action by state legislators and federal politicians — all at great cost to City residents?

If the City Council had any realistic chance of solving America’s health care problems we’d be the first to demand action, but they don’t. Yet all this convening of experts, compiling data and conducting research will cost money — money we think the City Council should spend taking care of Seattle’s real City business.

City Council Resolution 30673 already calls upon the City’s Labor-Management Health Care Committee “to investigate options” in providing health care to City employees. Resolution 30582 already establishes an “independent Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.” All, of course, at taxpayer expense. How many experts and committees does it take to just find less expensive drugs and health care plans for the City?

If this advisory ballot passes, the City Council will not consult you about your health care needs. Instead, it will consult so-called “experts,” and other health care industry professionals who work for pharmaceutical companies and who will explain why the City should endorse plans likely to put more money in the hands of the expert’s corporate sponsors. Why should your money be spent on that?

This advisory ballot is intended to “provide the residents of Seattle with an opportunity to speak with a unified voice in advising the City of Seattle.” But, we don’t need some “unified” voice created by wasting taxpayer resources. People interested in working on health care issues can simply pick up the phone and call up City Council members right now — assuming City Council members can do anything about these problems.

Please vote “NO” on the Health Care Advisory proposal. Our City Council has more important things to do with our money.

Rebuttal of Statement For

By “universal health care,” proponents mean they want higher taxes and more regulation rather than choices. But in a free country, who should make your health care decisions… politicians, or you? Please vote “NO.”

Statements Prepared By:
The Libertarian Party of King County
Scott Lindsley, County Chair
(425) 641-8247
www.LPWS.org

The above statements were written by the ballot committees, who are solely responsible for their contents.