

# King County Councilmember Larry Gossett

Summer 2006



## Your District 2: Northeast Seattle to Skyway

Here's hoping you are enjoying your summer! This newsletter is being sent to keep you informed about issues and events in King County. I am your representative on the King County Council, and it is my privilege and duty to provide you with relevant information about county government services and programs.

Voter-approved redistricting created a new King County Council District 2 (see the accompanying district map). You are a resident of this new district. The district has a total of nearly 200,000 citizens and includes 60,000 people whom I have not previously represented. The district's new areas include the Laurelhurst, Ravenna, Roosevelt, Fremont, University District, and Wallingford neighborhoods in the north, and the Rainier Valley, Seward Park, and Skyway neighborhoods in the south. More than 70 languages are spoken by residents living within District 2, making it one of the most ethnically diverse county districts in the State of Washington.

As a Seattle native, I am honored to be your servant and look forward to continue representing the district's interests on the King County Council.

## King County elections update

King County is moving toward conducting all elections by mail. Legislation recently adopted by the County Council will implement all-mail voting by 2008 or sooner.

Almost 75 percent of King County voters mail in their ballots. By switching to an all-mail system, I believe the county will see cost savings, a likely increase in voter turnout and system improvements in our Elections Section. But before the county implements the system, the County Council must approve cost estimates, locations, and security measures for regional voting centers that will allow those of you who want to continue voting at the polls to do so.

By switching to all-mail voting, King County will further increase civic engagement in major decisions that are being made at all levels of government.

Meanwhile, County Executive Ron Sims must appoint a new Elections Director to the vacant position. I am confident Executive Sims will appoint a very qualified and capable person to manage our future election efforts.

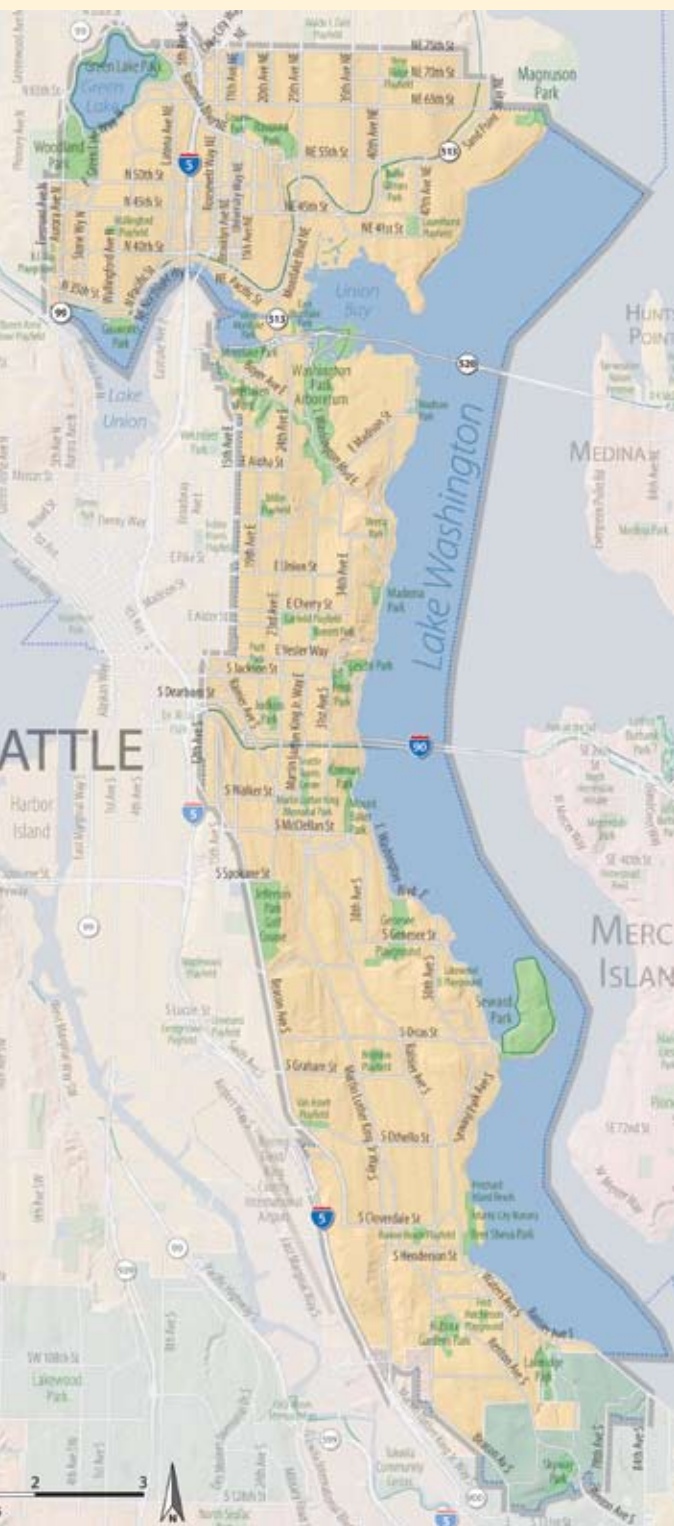


## Council considers funding transit improvements

The County Council is considering the Executive's Transit Now proposal that would add more frequent and faster bus service to the county's busiest and most congested roads and highways. It also would make improvements on five highly utilized transportation corridors and 41 bus routes, including several in District 2. Transit Now would result in more than 50,000 drivers a day getting out of their cars and onto buses.

Transit Now expands King County Metro bus service by more than 20 percent (approximately 620,000 service hours) with funding from a proposed 1/10th of one percent sales tax increase. The proposal would only cost the average family about \$25 a year. It would allow Metro to keep pace with regional growth.

You can find more information on Transit Now at [www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/transitnow.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/transitnow.htm)



## Mental health & human services funding

King County convened the Healthy Families and Communities Task Force (HFC) in 2005 to examine the funding gap between regional human services need and current funding. Renton Mayor Kathy Koelker and I co-chaired the 17 member task force, which consisted of citizens and elected officials from across King County with great expertise in human services.

The task force currently is finalizing its final report for County Executive Sims. Our report will include a recommendation for a dedicated source of revenue(s) to support an expansion of mental health and drug and alcohol services in King County. One benefit of expanding these services is the likely reduction in incarceration rates and jail populations.

For news about the task force and report, visit [www.metrokc.gov/dchs/HFC/index.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/HFC/index.htm)



## Selected council committee assignments

Council Committee of the Whole, Chair  
Labor, Operations & Technology, Chair  
Operating Budget Committee, Vice Chair  
Board of Health, Vice Chair  
Employment Committee, Vice Chair  
Law, Justice & Human Services

Growth Management & Natural Resources  
Transportation  
Regional Water Quality

For a complete list of my Council  
Committee assignments, visit  
[www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/  
members/gossett/committees](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members/gossett/committees)



King County

### Your King County Councilmember

## Larry Gossett

### District 2

King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272  
[www.metrokc.gov/gossett](http://www.metrokc.gov/gossett)

*Watch for information  
on my townhall meeting  
in the fall!*

PRSRT STD  
US Postage

**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 1788

## Summer and early fall events

### Farmers markets

The 2nd District features three great farmers markets all summer long:

**Columbia City** – Wednesdays, 3 - 7 pm, May 3 - October 25. The Columbia City Farmers Market is located in the parking lot at 4801 Rainier Avenue South (at South Edmunds).

**University District** – Saturdays, 9 am - 2 pm, May 6 through December 30. The University District Farmers Market is located on the "Ave" at the corner of University Way NE and NE 50th Street and next to University Heights Community Center.

**Wallingford** - Wednesdays, 3 pm - 7 pm. Located in the south parking lot of Wallingford Center, at North 44th Street and Wallingford Avenue North.



District residents also are served by two other nearby farmers markets:

**Broadway** – Sundays, 11 am - 3 pm, May 14 - November 19. The Broadway Farmers Market is located in the lot behind the Bank of America on the east side of Broadway, at East Thomas Street.

**Lake City** – Thursdays, 3 - 7 pm, May 18 through October 5. The Lake City Farmers Market is located at 127th NE and NE 30th behind the fire station.

### Art exhibitions

"History Shouts, Winks and Weeps," photography by Phillip Webber, at the Museum of History & Industry, 2700 24th Avenue East, now through September 4.

"Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes," a collection of installations by the noted Chinese American artist, at the Henry Art Gallery, 15th Avenue NE and NE 41st Street, now through October 1.

### Selected events

**Saturday, August 12** – Back 2 School Bash, "Celebrating Tomorrow's Leaders Today," at Rainier Beach Community Center. Sponsored by the Rainier Beach Community Empowerment Coalition and Councilmember Gossett. Students and parents will be provided with school supplies and information about community and educational resources. Includes food and entertainment.

**Tuesday, September 19** - Primary Election Day

**Friday, October 6** - "Take A Bite Out of Hunger" auction benefiting University Food Bank, at St. Demetrios Hall, 2100 Boyer Avenue East.

*Pictured with Councilmember Gossett is attorney Michael Withey (standing, in blue shirt), a District 2 resident who was honored with the Champion of Justice Award at the annual awards dinner of the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice this July. (Photo by Seattle Photography, Inc.)*



*Councilmember Gossett joined other community leaders at the ground breaking for the Northwest African American Museum in May. Other attendees included Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Terrence Satterfield)*

## Keeping in touch with you

I recently produced my first e-newsletter. This newsletter was created to help you stay informed about issues and events on which the King County Council is working on your behalf. You can read it online at [www.metrokc.gov/council/members/gossett/eNews/enews0606.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/council/members/gossett/eNews/enews0606.htm). We intend to publish the e-newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. You can subscribe to my e-newsletter by visiting [www.metrokc.gov/council/members/gossett](http://www.metrokc.gov/council/members/gossett).

Please let me know your thoughts about any of the issues raised in this newsletter or any other matters concerning King County government. You can always reach me by sending an e-mail to [larry.gossett@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.gossett@metrokc.gov) or by calling 206-296-1002.

