

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION#2: Richard Conlin, David Ginsberg
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Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

Conlin: Yes. We must consciously apply an antiracism analysis and approach in order to prevent the influence of race and class on our work. Institutionalized racism is a critical issue in our society, and the City must continue and expand its efforts to challenge it.

Ginsberg: I think we all have a leadership role. Probably the biggest way the City can help is by making sure that law enforcement is evenly applied and that jail is used judiciously, with a preference for community-based diversion programs. Education programs for the public and sensitivity training for police and city employees could also help.

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

Conlin: I am committed to maintaining all human services funding for programs in the Seattle budget.

Ginsberg: Particularly in tough economic times we have to be sure we're not cutting people off from the key services upon which they depend. I will fight to fully fund community based diversion programs and all the related programs upon which they depend. I will also fight for an expansion of youth programs at our community centers and universal early childhood education.

Q3. What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

Conlin: Child care is critical to making it possible for working families to make ends meet and have a reasonable quality of life. The City should continue and expand its efforts to support child care.

Ginsberg: It's clear the State is unable to fully fund education and we cannot allow a generation of youth to be lost. We must be preparing our kids for the competitive landscape of the 21st century. I believe the city should partner with the school district to guarantee early childhood education for all. I'd also like to implement something like what Kalamazoo has done, a "Seattle Promise" that says that we will help fund the college education of any child who gains admittance to one of our public colleges or universities.

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our regions' domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

Conlin: I have a track record of supporting domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts. In 2007 I received an award from the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence for my work to secure funding for legal assistance for victims of domestic violence. In 2008, even in the face of a very challenging budget, I was able to secure funding for a program for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. I will continue to be a strong leader and deliver results on domestic violence issues.

Ginsberg: Police are often the first city employees to respond to domestic violence. Making sure that they're properly trained is key. Also, the Crisis Clinic is another first call for many, and I'll fight to ensure that the Crisis Clinic has the funding it needs to meet increasing demand in these tough times. I'll listen to other providers as well and will incorporate their suggestions into my legislative agenda.

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

Conlin: It is government's job to stand up for the people who cannot stand up for themselves. I have a strong voting record of support for human services and have used my influence to get more money for health and human services programs. I will continue to do so, and to support and initiate programs that strengthen community networks to help the disadvantaged and bring disadvantaged citizens into the mainstream, including new immigrant populations. My Local food Action Plan includes measures to decrease hunger and malnutrition by making healthy, affordable food accessible to vulnerable communities.

Ginsberg: We will implement a program similar to what Common Ground has done in New York City, where we provide housing to people as a first measure and then connect them to the social services they need. We'll augment that with other programs designed to help get the employable homeless into jobs that they can feel good about and that give them a ladder out of poverty and despair.

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs. How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

Conlin: We must continue to fund emergency shelters while working to provide permanent housing for all who are in need. The Housing Levy is a critical part of those efforts, and I strongly supported increasing the size of the levy and ensuring that it would be placed before the voters. I endorse the commitment to "A Roof Over Every Head", and will work to implement plans to create a governance structure to address homelessness issues, to improve data collection, and to build the community will to achieve this goal. I recognize, however, that there are significant shortfalls in both the Ten-Year Plan and in the funding and implementation that has been committed to it, and support additional steps that will address the issue of homelessness.

Ginsberg: Obviously as a measure of basic humanity we must provide for emergency needs particularly in times of harsh weather, etc., and so that must be fully funded to meet current demand. However, over the long term providing permanent housing and a hand up out of poverty is the sort of investment we need to be making. I would commit all available resources above those basic emergency shelter needs to the latter.

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

Conlin: I believe that all seniors have the right to culturally sensitive services, including health and human services. I am particularly concerned with transportation services for the elderly, and I will continue to advocate for transit services through my position on the Sound Transit Board and for sidewalks and pedestrian safety with a special emphasis on areas that have large numbers of elderly persons. I support full funding for the City's Aging and Disability Services program and the Area Agency on Aging. I supported the development of Cannon House and the expansion of Branch Villa, and the rescue of Branch Villa and its preservation for the community as the Leon Sullivan Care Center when it experienced financial difficulties. I supported and will continue to support funding for Senior Centers in Seattle.

Ginsberg: I want to see good quality affordable senior housing in each of our communities so that our seniors can age in place in the neighborhoods where they've built their lives. The city can encourage this through smartcode and incentive zoning.

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development. Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

Conlin: Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing? See answer to Question 10.

Ginsberg: On the City Council I would be limited to affecting City policies, and within those confines I will vigorously push for revisions to our planning and land use code to implement smartcode to encourage the development of greater density and more affordable housing throughout the city.

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

Conlin:

I have led the work of the Council on funding programs to feed the hungry, including securing some \$1 million in additions to the 2009-2010 budgets to support food banks, home delivery of meals, and expanded outreach to get people signed up for food stamps. I worked with United Way to develop a coordinated strategy to end hunger and malnutrition in King County, announced at a news conference April 24. My Local Food Action Initiative, which was approved by the Council in 2008, focuses on both hunger issues and access to healthy, local food. I recently worked with a coalition of groups to develop a community action grant for submission to the US Department of Agriculture. Among other things, this \$300,000 grant, awarded in June, provides funding for the Clean Greens program organized out of New Hope Baptist Church, for additional garden space for immigrant communities under Seattle's P-Patch program, for providing access to fresh fruit and vegetables in the Delridge community, and several other projects.

Ginsberg: One of the best ways the City can help is by making sure that farmer's markets are thriving and have stable locations throughout the city. We can also use incentive zoning to encourage the development of grocery stores in areas that are currently underserved.

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

Conlin: I played a key role in the creation of Seattle's Transfer of Development Rights and Bonus programs, which require the development and funding of low income housing as a prerequisite for building in downtown zones. I also assisted in developing the incentive zoning program, which extends these concepts to other zones around the City. I will continue to be involved in the work of government and community based agencies to increase the supply of low income housing in Seattle. I was one of the Councilmembers who ensured that the Low Income Housing Levy was expanded in 2002, and supported expanding it again this year. I will only support redevelopment of low income housing that ensures full replacement of all low income housing units and a guarantee that every family will have the opportunity to move back into the redeveloped community. I am committed to realigning funding support as needed in order to support programs that research has demonstrated to be effective and to coordinate the provision of services from prevention and service programs. I am also committed to ensuring that the City continues to fund human service and housing programs as a high priority.

Ginsberg: This is one of the top 3 issues I've been talking about since I entered the race. We'll use smart code and the dense, compact development it encourages to get the market to provide more affordable housing. This should cover 80% or so of the need. The remaining 20% can be provided through extension and expansion of the housing levy, as well as leveraging our community centers to help bring down some of the costs of child care. We can create a Seattle that works for all of it's residents, and this will be one of my top priorities on the Council.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION#4: Sally Bagshaw, David Bloom
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Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

Bagshaw: Of course. I believe both the City and the County have a role to end racism and have taken strong steps toward fairness and opportunity for all of us. King County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative is a strong model. I believe everyone, elected or not, should strive to end racism in our society.

Bloom: Both former King County Executive Ron Sims' Equity and Social Justice Initiative and Mayor Greg Nickels' Race and Social Justice Initiative demonstrate an important understanding that institutional racism continues to affect our society, including government. These initiatives are a step in the right direction. The problem of institutional racism, for example, is especially apparent in arrest and conviction rates for African-American males, particularly on drug charges. There are steps that both the Seattle and King County Police need to take to change this practice. This must include ongoing support for the drug court and other alternative means to incarceration that have proven to reduce our jail population and reduce recidivism. But it also means that we need to begin to change our attitude toward the drug problem from one of criminal justice to a public health issue. Such a change will dramatically change the way in which we respond. Finally, raising awareness of institutional racism within City government and changing attitudes and behaviors will benefit both the quality of our public institutions and the perception of government by those who too often experience discriminatory treatment based on their racial or ethnic background.

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

Bagshaw: In a down economy, we obviously need to do more with less and coordinate our efforts through government, neighborhoods, non-profits, businesses, labor organizations and those who work in all aspects of public education. Human services are critical, and when times are dire, we need to take care of the most vulnerable.

I will support King County's and the City of Seattle's efforts "to focus on affordable housing, quality education, safe neighborhoods, access to health care" as defined in King County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative.

Bloom: I have participated in several efforts coordinated over the years by SHSC and others to assure that human services are not cut in either the City's or the County's budgets. While the City of Seattle is facing a possible \$72 million deficit in the 2010 budget, it is essential that human services not be cut to close the gap. As a member of the City Council I will advocate for an examination of City spending practices that place too much reliance on private consultants and that have allowed some departments to grow with too many inefficient levels of management. But more important, we are investing City resources in too many capital projects in our downtown with little or no benefit to the public interest. These include the most expensive option for replacing the viaduct, \$300 million for Mercer, more than \$50 million to build a South Lake Union Street Car that has actually led to reduction in bus service. My priority is to invest in people first: in human services, in low-income housing, in child care, in drug and alcohol counseling, in emergency shelter and transitional housing, and other supportive services. We can do this if we get our priorities straight.

Q.3 What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

Bagshaw: We should take the lead, coordinating with non-profits, businesses, labor organizations as well as our public school district and King County, to provide the services working families need.

Bloom: One of the major themes of my campaign is to make Seattle affordable and supportive for working families. Maintaining a home for these families is essential if we intend to remain a great city. I have proposed the following: 1) Increase Seattle's commitment to building affordable housing to 5,000 units beyond the goals of the housing levy. We start to achieve this by spending half of what was proposed for building a new jail on housing development and by passing an inclusionary zoning ordinance that requires developers to include low-income units in their projects; 2) Pass a living wage ordinance that over 140 cities have implemented; 3) Invest in early childhood education and middle school after school programs, both (Q3 Bloom cont.) of which have been demonstrated to improve children's educational achievement and life outcomes; 4) Invest in a flexible bus system that offers more cross town routes and serves major activity centers to give families workable transportation options to the automobile.

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our regions' domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

Bagshaw: I worked as Chief Civil Deputy for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO). Our office led a regional effort to prevent domestic violence and to prosecute those who committed violent and aggressive acts against our most vulnerable populations. Among other important actions, we worked closely with non-profits providing valuable education and support for victims and started our victim assistance unit within the PAO.

In addition, we created alternatives to jail incarceration so those convicted of non-violent crimes could get the training they needed to improve their lives. I will continue to support these coordinated and humane efforts.

Bloom: The City should have a vigorous program to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic violence, in addition to being physically dangerous or even fatal for female spouses and partners, is also a leading cause of homelessness for both women and children. Domestic violence, for example, is commonly experienced by youth who live on the streets. Our police must be trained in identifying and responding to domestic violence situations, that should include being able to make arrests in situations where women are obviously at risk. We must increase the number of safe houses where battered women can find safety and support. In too many situations they return to their batterers because they have nowhere else to go, except the street. We should also increase the number of shelters that are available to women with children and to unaccompanied minors. Again, our City's disproportionate investment in big capital projects comes at the expense of our investment in addressing basic human needs, in this case an issue that places lives at risk.

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

Bagshaw: Supporting our homeless neighbors and supporting our most vulnerable are deeply important to me, not just professionally but personally. For the 31 years I have lived in Seattle, I have volunteered my time to improve our public education and support kids; I have volunteered to be a mentor to girls and women in need; I have created a free legal clinic for homeless women; I have cut hair for homeless men. These actions are from my heart.

As an elected official, I will work with my elected colleagues in the City, the County, the State, and Federal government as well as neighborhood leaders to obtain necessary funding to assist with housing, supportive services. I believe strongly that poverty, violence, health problems and lack of education within families are interconnected issues, and the cycle must be broken and support made available from various sectors of our community if our families are to be made healthy and whole.

Bloom: First, I would make it a priority. The City of Seattle pats itself on the back for its human service and homeless service funding. And while it is true that our City does a relatively good job in this area, it is nowhere near enough. The problems continue to outstrip the needs. I would place human service funding ahead of spending on the capital projects I cited in **Q2**. I would also set a policy of emergency shelter in safe and well-managed environments for all who need it as a city priority. The fact of more than 2,500 people identified as homeless in the One Night Count indicates that we are far from adequate shelter. To this end I would eliminate the restriction that there can be only one Tent City at a time in Seattle, and I would find a permanent home for Nickelsville. My living wage initiative and my commitment to increasing low-income housing development, cited in **Q3**, would be key elements in this response.

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs.

How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

Bagshaw: We need housing all along the continuum, from emergency housing, to temporary housing (including our Tent Cities), to family housing, as well as supportive services housing for those with mental illness or drug/alcohol problems, and low income housing so people can move from homelessness into housing. The 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness calls for building or sustaining 9,500 units, which means approximately 1000 additional units annually. We are behind this goal, but we are making progress. In addition to building new units, we need to coordinate with local rental associations and non profits to better utilize existing resources.

We need all kinds of housing along this continuum and we do not have dedicated revenues to provide for all these needs. The result: we must coordinate with people from all parts of our community – faith based, non-profit, and individuals – to create the housing necessary.

Bloom: Meeting emergency survival needs should be priority. That's why I said in **Q5** that we must set a policy of providing shelter for all who need it. We cannot respond effectively to issues of addiction or mental illness or domestic violence if a person does not have stable shelter. When one is without shelter of any kind that becomes the paramount need for that person. But shelter is not housing. It is still, at best, an interim measure. We must work harder to get people into permanent housing, long term transitional housing, or supportive housing where they have the stability to begin to deal with any other issues. Getting people into housing is also critical to be able to maintain steady employment. A significant benefit of Tent City and Nickelsville is that knowing that a person has a stable place to stay, even if it is a tent, can help that person maintain employment. Finally, in a city that has millions to spend on big capital projects, there is no excuse for having to "strike a balance" between survival needs and housing. In a civilized society, these should be our priorities, not \$300 million for Mercer that will not improve traffic.

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

Bagshaw: This is another area of personal importance to me. I took care of my 90 year old father who lived with my husband and me the last year of his life. I learned first hand the challenges our aging population face. As a community, we must have at the ready additional services to help those who cannot help themselves. Many of our conversations are about low income and affordable housing, and providing more housing for those in need. Those are indeed admirable goals, all of which I support. But I think it is also important to pay attention to the needs of those who have homes, and particularly to help our elders age in place.

We need a diverse housing stock. We need to provide some type of shelter for all walks of life. We want people to establish roots here and we want people to have options that will meet their needs and desires.

Bloom: The City should maintain its commitment to senior housing that was built under the senior housing bond program and other senior housing that is managed by SHA. This includes maintaining those units for the lowest income seniors and not converting them to any higher income uses. The City should also maintain its commitment to supporting the senior centers, to its program of utility discounts to low-income seniors, and to support for the mission of Senior Services “To promote the emotional, social, and physical well-being of older adults.” Finally, since transportation is vitally important to seniors, we must maintain support for the Access vans and assure that bus service in the Rainier Valley is not sacrificed in the wake of the opening of the light rail system.

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development. Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

Bagshaw: I am a strong advocate of Seattle’s Housing Levy. We must pass this replacement housing levy at the City. I will encourage those involved in the 10 Year Plan to continue their outreach and coordinate efforts with banks and housing developers. I will also reach out to rental housing associations that have indicated a willingness to make their stock available to non-profit organizations and assure their units are filled (at a reduced rate) so people who need housing get it.

As a region, we must work with our elected and community leaders to assure appropriate housing and supportive services are coordinated and that these supportive services are made available and accounted for in a fiscally responsible manner. To help people stay in their homes, coordinated services including rent and utility assistance, job training, education assistance, health care, mental health counseling, foster care and chemical dependency treatment are available.

In addition to building the public will to provide good housing, as a region we must look more broadly at our strategies to create sustainable, more affordable housing options. Some ideas follow, as offered recently by federal leaders in the Obama Administration: **DOT Secretary Ray LaHood, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson who announced an Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities with “6 Livability Principles.” I find this change in federal leadership heartening:**

1. **Provide more transportation choices.**
Develop safe, reliable and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote public health.
2. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.**
Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
3. **Enhance economic competitiveness.**
Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.
4. **Support existing communities.**
Target federal funding toward existing communities – through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling – to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.
5. **Coordinate policies and leverage investment.**
Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
6. **Value communities and neighborhoods.**
Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods – rural, urban or suburban.

Bloom: As I stated in **Q3**, I would increase the City's housing production goal by 5,000 units, redirect funds from major capital projects into housing, and pass an inclusionary zoning ordinance that more than 140 American cities have implemented, including Boston, Denver, and San Francisco. I would also introduce a one-for-one replacement requirement for developers to replace affordable housing that is demolished for new projects. Other methods would be to give tenants the right of first notice when an apartment building is being sold to enable them to form cooperatives to buy the building in cooperation with a local low-income housing non-profit.

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

Bagshaw: Availability of food is not the primary problem in our region. Distribution is. The City and County are providing some good first steps to encourage local partnerships and in some cases to fund neighborhood grants and outreach efforts. Many community organizations including our underfunded food banks are taking steps to reach individual neighbors and neighborhood groups. Volunteer organizations such as "Gleaners" are making sure fresh fruits and vegetables are available to neighbors. In Delridge for example, a mobile truck is taking fresh fruits and vegetables around to particular neighborhoods in need. Most recently, I learned that a group led by AmeriCorp is reaching out through students to teach kids and families about the value of eating healthy snacks and growing their own fresh vegetables.

No single effort is going to solve the access problem. This must be a continuous community wide effort, which may best be led by neighbors rather than the government.

Bloom: Support the Local Food Action Initiative of Richard Conlin and the City Council "to promote local and regional food sustainability and security," including: increasing funding for local food banks, expanding community gardens, increasing access to healthy food for low-income households by providing more fresh food to food banks and feeding programs, supporting local food producers, expanding the growing network of farmers markets, and educating the public on the benefits of healthy diets. Finally, I would support the development of a proposed Regional Food Policy Council to assist the City in developing policies that increase access to adequate, nutritious food.

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

Bagshaw: Please see the 6 step plan above in response to Question 8.

Bloom: I refer you to my responses in **Q3** and **Q8** that I believe address this question.

**CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION#6:
Jessie Israel, Nick Licata**

Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

Israel: Yes. As we take on more growth and build communities around transit centers and urban centers we need to pay close attention to gentrification and not pushing communities of color and low-income communities outside the City.

We must also make sure that it is practical for all people to be involved in government. Community meetings should not be during work hours, and there should be childcare available. We should also have more robust outreach and translation programs that serve people for whom English is a second language.

It is a red flag that a disproportionate number of people going to jail are African American men, and I am concerned that we have too many people who are going to jail, when they should be going into other programs. In addition to continued support for substance abuse and mental health programs, we should focus on unemployment in disadvantaged communities. We must ensure that job seekers have technical training to take advantage of the durable infrastructure projects that are created instead of turning to crime. That begins with improving matriculation rates from our public school system. As a City Councilmember, I would actively work to ensure that the City is targeting incentives and funding to support our public schools that are most at risk.

I have worked closely with Ron Sims office to implement his Equity and Social Justice Initiative which tracks and then prioritizes County investments and service delivery based on need, equity and ending institutionalized racism. I'm proud that many of the County success stories over the past two years on this front have been driven from my team at Parks - in particular community partnerships in Skyway and White Center.

Licata: Yes. I support the Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative. As Council President I initiated a series of workshops for the Legislative Department dealing with Race and Social Justice. Still, more can be done within City government to: a. help identify racism within departments and programs and organizations funded by the City b. identify the tools to work toward eliminating it.

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

Israel: My first priority as a Seattle City Councilmember will be to make sure we have an efficient well run government, and to figure out how we can keep services open and strong using our existing resources. This will include partnering with community based organizations that provide health and human services. At King County Parks I have worked to keep 25,000 acres of parkland open in the face of an 80% budget cut by raising funds through public-private partnerships. I will bring that experience to the table and strive to find innovative ways that we can strengthen our safety-net for those most in need without raising an already regressive sales tax, by partnering with the non-profit community. As the City, State and County budget crisis continues and community health services are defunded, I will consider potential alternative revenue streams to support this critical urban need.

Licata: I support an increase in the City's investment in people. I will continue to lead as a Councilmember who will promote the SHSC budget priorities. In down economic times, these services are needed more than ever.

Q.3 What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

Israel: I am very concerned that women and children are the largest growing group living in poverty in our region. I will continue to support training programs for managers to promote equity in the workplace and fair hiring and promotion of women. I will also work with employers to offer incentives for those who provide for childcare and medical benefits.

In addition, I know that the number one thing we can do to help working families is work to attract employers to Seattle and keep them here. The City can help improve the climate for commerce in a number of ways, including preserving the high quality of life that attracts world class companies and workers. This means great public education, safe streets, parks and open space, and a transit infrastructure that offers residents attractive, reliable, low-cost options.

Licata: I support increasing the childcare subsidies provided by both the City and State so more low-income families can afford daycare. Further, as a way to improve childcare learning by retaining educated staff, I support programs that increase childcare workers salaries in exchange for their achievements in professional development in childcare learning. We also need to ensure health care is sufficiently funded so that children, youth, and families have adequate health care. Afterschool programs that offer student enrichment, family support and school involvement deserve additional investment.

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our regions' domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

Israel: As a Councilmember, I will urge the City to continue support for programs like Angeline's shelter and the YWCA that address issue of domestic violence and sexual abuse. I will also support police training for handling domestic issues, as well as community based programs that empower and defend women.

I am strongly in support of increased neighborhood patrols and the hiring of additional patrol officers which will also significantly aid in the response efforts of police to DV calls.

Licata: Maintaining funding for the advocacy done by the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCCADV) and funding for the services provided by the member organizations of KCCADV is one critical role of City government. Domestic Violence is still the number one reason for homelessness among women; the costs of not supporting the advocacy of KCCADV and the services of its member organizations are too high.

Additionally, the criminal justice system must be designed to protect the victims and there families as well as holding offenders accountable.

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

Israel: Health care costs are spiraling out of control, job losses are at an all-time high, and funding from County and State programs have been cut back stranding many urban families. Particularly now, we must protect our safety net for those most in need. Community partnerships are imperative in a time when we have limited resources. We should be smarter about working hand in hand with non-profit and social service organizations that have existing relationship with disadvantaged communities.

In the long term, the government services and non-profit organizations that supported disadvantaged communities rely on a strong economy. These sectors will not be able to recover until the foundation of job growth and economic growth are stabilized. As a City Councilmember, I will work to ensure that business and industry are incubated and remain in Seattle. For example, I will aggressively promote Seattle's competitiveness for the development and incubation of clean energy technologies.

(Israel continued)

As growth moves our way over the next 20 years, housing issues are also going to become even more acute.

We must pass the housing levy to get more transitional and permanent low income housing. We must also we must build housing in our urban centers and around transit stations to meet the needs of many family types and income levels.

Licata: I will continue to be a leader in promoting the policies and programs recommended by the SHSC that create living wage jobs, affordable housing, safety net program funding, health care, childcare, and alternatives to incarceration.

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs. How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

Israel: The City and County should continue to work closely with non-profit community, churches, schools and other property owners to facilitate temporary housing. As stated in question five, a permanent solution must including passing the housing levy, and we must build housing in our urban centers and around transit stations. Additionally, we must re-focus on mental health, substance abuse, and diversion programs.

Licata: I don't believe we can begin to reduce funding for basic shelter until we can demonstrate a reduced need for shelter. When the City's funds and programs target permanent housing development I will continue to lead as an advocate for fairness in funding shelter, transitional housing, and supportive services.

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

Israel: With an aging boomer generation, it will be critically important to ensure the City is working proactively with other partners to build strong urban, multi-generational neighborhoods. Public-private partnerships can serve as a strong development tool toward creating a strong supply of affordable urban assisted living communities and housing that meets this critical need.

Working families today are also part of the sandwich generation – caring for young children and aging parents at the same time. I will promote tax incentives for employers who provide adequate family sick leave.

Licata: There has not been sufficient planning around how to best support Seattle growing population of senior citizens. A coordinated effort is necessary to determine the need for community care facilities as alternatives to nursing homes, as well as the direct service needs such as meal programs, transportation, and personal chore assistance in the home.

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development. Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

Israel: We have additional opportunities when it comes to partnering to build employer assisted housing, increase housing options co-located with other public facilities like libraries, and allow for smaller units without parking or other options that tend to drive up housing costs to consumers. Friend and supporter, Jeff Reibman, explains here in recent article for the Puget Sound Business Journal on urban senior housing that co locating housing with park or other public spaces to decrease vandalism and increase community vibrancy: <http://seattle.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2009/07/27/focus6.html> The City and other large employers in the region own underutilized land which may be viable for public housing or employee assisting housing partnerships with the correct incentives.

I am a strong supporter of the upcoming Housing Levy which will provide capital funding for to provide low income and transitional housing for Seattle's most vulnerable.

Licata: I support Incentive Zoning in exchange for increased housing setasides at affordability rates not already sufficiently provided by the current rental market. I support efforts to preserve the quality of the affordable housing we have now. I support requirements for developers to replace the housing that their developments eliminate.

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

Israel: As a board member of the Ballard Food Bank I see firsthand the immense need for stable programs to serve those who are most vulnerable. We must make the most strategic use of public assets to support critical community needs. In addition to grant making, that could include subsidizing lease space for non-profit organizations that provide food services or providing surplus vehicles.

I also am proud that our commitment to growth management and the preservation of farmland has made Seattle a place where we have more farmers markets per capita than any other city in the nation. As a City Councilmember I will to support farmers' markers, pea patches, and victory gardens.

Licata: The challenge of making sure that Seattle residents have enough to eat continues to grow. We must maintain and increase our funding for summer meal programs for children, food banks, childcare nutrition programs, and senior meal programs.

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

Israel: The Puget Sound Regional Council expects 1.7 million additional people will move to our region by 2040. In order to keep housing affordable to families, we must encourage urban infill in targeted areas via tax and height incentives and altered zoning. Building housing around transit stations will be of particular importance to families who can save on transportation costs. And we must target improvements for greenspace, walkability and other community oriented infrastructure to areas accepting growth, so that the growth is an asset, not a liability to the neighborhood. If we do not accept growth in these strategic ways, Seattle will become unaffordable and quickly edge out our middle class. While passing of the Housing Levy and support is critically important, with the number of housing units needed, it is not possible for a levy to subsidize enough housing to meet the tidal wave of need required for Seattle to remain affordable. We must also look at increased density, streamlined permit process, alternatives to traditional single family homes and smart growth.

Licata: An employee earning a minimum wage must work 100 hours each week in order to afford an average 2-bedroom apartment in Seattle. We must find new ways to work with the private sector in order to provide the housing that people actually need as well as pay people a wage sufficient to maintain that housing.

**CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL POSITION#6:
Mike O'Brien, Robert Rosencrantz**

Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz: Every government entity has a mandate to ensure fair treatment of everyone

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Continue the housing levy— Seattle has voted to tax itself for affordable housing, and has another opportunity to do so in November
- Make sure downtown developers and property owners pay for tunnel costs

Take every opportunity to find funding that will address:

- Affordable housing for a wide range of citizens, assuring that those who work in support jobs can remain in the city, keeping families strong
- Safe shelters, especially for people at risk (abused women, children)
- Reinforce that police are a community resource for all—not just enforcers—from the chief on down
- Look for ways to maximize access to and opportunities for food banks and community clinics

Q3 What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Job search assistance, collaboration with Employment Security
- Support family-friendly
 - Parks Department programs/community centers that focus on youth, providing both respite for working families and a safe haven for the kids
 - Parks and schools need to be available city-wide to make neighborhoods family-friendly
 - City Light/SPU programs that provide subsidies for low-income families

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our regions' domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Psychiatric programs—in accessible places
- Women's education—in accessible places with skills counseling (from community colleges), child care and job search (with Employment Security and community college job search groups) partnerships
- Police response
- Recycling cell phones for free emergency calls

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Even before election—especially before election--support of housing levy
- I'll continue my work with the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs.

How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- More permanent affordable housing allows future generations to grow up without worrying about having to live on the streets. More flexible programs at the City level [along the lines of Section 8] would give more people immediate access to housing

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Transportation/Access vans are vital for frail people who can no longer drive or even stand at the bus stop for extended periods.
- Support Meals on Wheels
- Continue the property-tax deferral program
- Continue the weatherization program

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development. Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz: Although this is a County program, for years I worked with King County in creating and preserving low-income housing and look forward to continuing to do so.

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz: More Pea Patches. I'm on the Board of Seattle Tilth and am a big booster of self-sufficiency gardening and growing.

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

O'Brien:

Rosencrantz:

- Grow the economy so there are more family-wage jobs with benefits
- Programs that provide relief for utility costs

**CANDIDATES FOR SEATTLE MAYOR:
Joe Mallahan, Mike McGinn**

Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

Mallahan: Yes. As Seattle Mayor, I will continue city government's efforts to ensure that city policies and procedures do not, intentionally or unintentionally, create economic or social barriers to city employees or Seattle residents due to race, culture, and language.

McGinn: Yes, Government serves a larger role than just legislative leadership and must set an example in social services, operations, hiring, neighborhood outreach, etc. We need to increase the training that City of Seattle employees, especially our elected officials and police officers, are receiving on racial justice issues. We must also increase the reach of the Seattle Civil Rights Office to enable it to serve in a greater capacity.

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

Mallahan: It is more critical than ever that we maintain our safety net for those most at risk. Seattle currently faces a \$72 million shortfall in our city budget, and we must prioritize services to the most vulnerable, including emergency housing and food, employment services for seniors and youth, and domestic violence shelters. I am a strong proponent of the November housing levy and as Mayor, I will work to ensure that all of our housing programs are managed efficiently in order to have the highest possible human impact.

McGinn: Protecting funding for health and human services will be a priority for me in setting a budget for the city of Seattle. We also need to work smart and do more with programs that are already established. By creating a more effective human services department we should be able to expand the services being provided without adding additional funds. The SHARE/WHEEL program, for example, provides services through 'self-run' shelters and has been able to do so effectively at less cost.

We can work boost neighborhood-level participation in this area. I have a record of effectively engaging communities at Great City, the nonprofit I founded. Projects like the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) demonstrate the impressive efforts that can happen within the community even without large sums of money. Neighborhoods can organize to address problems, and the city needs to be an active partner to support community efforts.

Q3 What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

Mallahan: The people of Seattle have, through our Family & Education Levies, acted to support working families through several programs assisting families with children who are at risk of struggling in school. I support a renewal of the Family & Education Levy. I also believe that public safety has a significant impact on working families' quality of life. Safe streets, parks, and schools are essential to childhood development and family life in general. As Mayor of Seattle, I will work with all due haste to increase the number of patrol officers serving Seattle, particularly in our neighborhoods that are most impacted by gun violence and other crime.

McGinn: On a personal level I've gained an appreciation of the value of supporting young families with children from the work of my mother, Joyce McGinn, who was an educator on Long Island. She developed and ran programs for early childhood education and after-school programs. I saw the effects and benefits provided to young children and families. One of my workplan items would be to shape a future Families and Education levy renewal that strengthens support for early childhood education.

Seattle's host of programs, such Community Learning Centers, school-based after school programs, programs for culturally relevant support for children, and various childcare support programs, can all be helpful for working families. Making sure that the right people have access to these programs is important, and the strong partnership with nonprofits is what makes these programs work. The City's role is to continue to support these programs, while keeping an eye towards improving and innovating on what is already in place.

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our region's domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

Mallahan: Not only is domestic violence the leading cause of women's trips to the emergency room, but accounts for one-half of homeless women and children. Tackling domestic violence requires short term emergency sheltering and long-term stable housing, job support and counseling for both parents and children who have been victims of domestic violence. As Mayor, I will ensure these needs are well-funded.

Again, a well-staffed police force is critical for protecting parents and children from domestic violence. If restraining orders are to be enforced, and if perpetrators are to take seriously the consequences of their actions, we must have the feet on the street to stand side by side with threatened parents and children in every instance.

McGinn: Domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that affect not only the victim but also the entire community. One way to address this issue would be to work with the City Attorney to create a "batterer's fund" similar to the "john fund" connected with prostitution prosecution. By attaching this additional fine we would be able to generate more funds for the domestic violence shelters, while providing an additional disincentive for those that are perpetrating the crimes.

Secondly, I would like to explore the idea of establishing a Family Justice Center (similar to the one in San Diego) in Seattle. Victims of these crimes have been through enough trauma and would greatly benefit from having all of the services (family courts, detectives, resource referrals, etc.) located in the same building. Not only does this aid them in getting through the various legal hurdles, but it gives them a sense of security in a supervised building.

Finally, expand the Seattle Police Victim Support Team (a volunteer agency that works with the Police department to provide immediate assistance to domestic violence victims). They work as the frontline transition from the abrupt legal side of the community (the police) back into a community that is ready and willing to help them.

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

Mallahan: I support the Ten Year Plan to end homelessness, but I am also aware that, four years into the plan's implementation, we are behind on our timeline for reaching those goals. The 2009 One Night Count showed that the number of homeless on the streets and people in emergency shelters to be comparable to 2008. In a sense, keeping the numbers flat was a small victory given the stresses in the economy and the fact that most cities across the United States experienced an average 20% increase in homelessness. We must continue to invest in long term housing solutions, but also focus on short term measures to serve our homeless on the streets. The city's sole shelter for women with children is currently in real danger of being forced to close and we have no back-up systems in place, and we've also seen our tent city organizations struggling for acceptance. As Mayor, I will convene service providers to evaluate where we are succeeding and where our city is failing in providing compassionate, proactive, substantive solutions to address homelessness in our community.

While there are many ways to attack poverty in our community, I believe that one of the primary goals of the Mayor of Seattle should be to create an environment for job growth and to stand up with the working poor to advocate for living wage jobs. I will partner with business, labor, and community activists to pursue that goal.

McGinn: We have different reasons for homelessness, and our solutions must speak to those reasons. Some are homeless because of significant mental health or drug abuse problems. Others are homeless because they've gone through the system and exhausted the social support systems that can connect them to jobs or housing.

For those that are able to work we need to provide inexpensive and stable housing. I will support efforts to create more local jobs for Seattleites and make these available to all people. For those that need better connections to human services, we need to provide them. It is also important to expand the programs that help to prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place. If we are to make any headway on ending homelessness we first have to stop the steady stream of families finding themselves on the street. One way to

be more effective as a whole community is to create a better web of communication between of the non-profit agencies that receive city funding. Often times shelter openings are missed or unknown simply

(McGinn continued)

because the two agencies have never met. By creating a better means of communication between the agencies (using more advanced technology-sharing, for example) we will be able to provide services more efficiently.

Finally, the previous Mayor was able to put Seattle on the national stage for the environment. If we truly want to end homelessness then we need to acknowledge a national movement of a similar scale will be required. I would like Seattle to provide a model for innovation and effectiveness for homelessness issues and to help lead the nation on this issue.

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs.

How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

Mallahan: I fully support the Housing Levy that will be on the ballot this November, which focuses largely on creating permanent affordable housing.

Still, Seattle needs to do more to assist with short term emergency needs, connecting people in crisis with the service continuum that prevents homelessness from occurring and helps those who have fallen into homelessness to transition into permanent homes.

McGinn: The efforts to implement the Ten Year Plan have shown an ability to dramatically change the lives of people who are homeless and reduce the cost of supporting them in other systems. Much remains to be done, however. As we grapple with budget constraints we have to evaluate the extent to which cuts in one area simply cause increases in others. At a time when more people are vulnerable to economic situations this is especially problematic.

For the Plan to be successful long-term, we do need more permanent and affordable housing. As it stands right now there is up to a two-year wait on housing, which is leaving many men and women stranded on the streets while they wait. This leads to complications like potentially developing drug addictions on the streets or a criminal background for merely sleeping outside. If we are truly going to achieve our goal of ending homelessness then we first need to meet these unfortunate individuals where they are rather than expect them to be ready on our timetable. We should make every effort to address this, and in fact, I think there are things the city can do (such as incentive zoning and other land use policies discussed in question number eight) that will enable us to create more affordable housing.

At the same time, I strongly believe we must make every effort not to cut funding for the emergency services that are perhaps needed now more than ever, and would prioritize these programs. I will do my best to work with state and regional entities and be creative about funding.

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

Mallahan: About one third of people 75 and older live alone, and opportunities to socialize and be an active part of a community are critical to their quality of life. Some studies suggest that opportunities to socialize can have an impact on a person's physical health as well.

Seattle has only eight senior centers throughout the city, so support for these senior centers is particularly important. Studies show that seniors often visit a senior center because of the friendliness and availability of the senior center's director. Too often Seattle's senior center directors have to spend the majority of their time on fundraising activities to keep the senior center open instead of on the great services senior centers provide. I'm committed to finding ways to for the City of Seattle to provide additional monetary assistance to these centers.

Staying active and physically fit helps ward off the aches and pains of growing older. Seniors are advised to engage in physical activity for at least half an hour a day, at least five days a week. Yet, King County reports less than half of the people in the region who are 65 and older meet the recommended levels of physical activity. And, at the time of their report, nearly one quarter of those who were 75 years of age or older reported no physical activity at all during the last month of when they were asked.

(Mallahan continued)

Despite the clear need to provide more physical activity opportunities for seniors, only one half of one percent of the city's Parks and Recreation Department is used to fund recreational activities for older adults. This would change under my administration. Seattle's seniors have spent a lifetime giving to those around them, contributing to society and their community, and paying taxes that help fund services the rest of us enjoy.

Many seniors are challenged with our struggling economy, rising health care costs and knowing retirement dollars will have to stretch farther. To meet these challenges, many seniors find themselves wanting to continue working after retirement. Nationally, 81 percent of aging boomers say they expect to work beyond the age of 65.

In Seattle, 35 percent of seniors between the ages of 65 and 74 have an income of less than \$25,000 a year. Nearly 50 percent of seniors 75 and older receive less than \$25,000 annually.

In 2003, nearly five percent of people in King County over the age of 65 said they were skipping meals or cutting food portion sizes due to a lack of money. The City of Seattle needs to do more to address these issues.

The City's Age 55+ Employment Resource Center helps people with computer classes and other skills training to help seniors stay active in the workforce if they want to. Last year, the center helped fewer than 500 seniors find jobs and part time community service employment. But, with our senior population expected to reach 120,000 people in two years, we will have to do more to help seniors find employment if they want to continue working.

The answer to fixing government problems shouldn't always be to throw more money at it. I will partner with more private businesses to increase employment training and job opportunities for seniors who want to remain in the workforce.

McGinn: Seattle's population of people 60 and above is growing from 18% at present and projected to exceed 20% by 2011. Since the Seattle/King County Aging & Disability Services Agency reports to Seattle's Mayor, the Mayor also has a responsibility to care more broadly for the concerns of older adults countywide.

One of the greatest needs is in ensuring the ability of seniors to "age in place". Like any of my generation I had to go through the difficult passage of losing one's parent. I understand the values placed by seniors on being able to stay in one's house and one's community. As president of the Greenwood Community Council I had the opportunity to understand how strong the combination of walkable neighborhoods, good transit, and in-home services and ways for older adults to engage in their community enhances the quality of their life, and of the community.

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development. Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

Mallahan: Through the Housing Levy, the City of Seattle currently partners with a number of local non-profit organizations and for-profit developers to create affordable housing with 50-year covenants to keep rental prices at affordable rates. I fully support the Housing Levy on the November ballot and as Mayor, I will work to ensure that every dollar of those levy funds are spent efficiently in order to have the maximum human impact. In particular, I will hold accountable organizations who make use of city and federal housing dollars by establishing clear metrics and I will eliminate funding to organizations who fail to serve well those most in need.

McGinn: Ensuring affordable housing and a range of housing options requires a multi-faceted approach. Here are several different tactics:

1. Subsidies to ensure that our low-income residents have a place to live. We need to work with the State and especially the County to prevent any cuts from the funding they provide for housing.
2. Continue to provide and expand incentives to developers (in the form of more development capacity) in exchange for creating a certain portion of the extra capacity for affordable housing.

3. Remove barriers to creating more affordable housing through other incentives to the private market. I support cottage housing. I support the lowering of parking minimums (or the creation of a parking maximum) so more space can be used for housing and retail. I support revising zoning and the permit process to provide more

(McGinn continued)

flexibility in utilizing more of the space for lower-priced units. We need to provide more “rungs” on the affordable housing ladder and ensure that there are no gaps in housing prices. It is important to include not just housing for people at 80% of median income but housing for people at 50% and 30% as well.

4. Transportation costs are the second highest cost of living. By creating livable, walkable, bikeable neighborhoods with access to transit, we will reduce transportation and the cost of living in general. We should quantify both of these costs (transportation and housing) when talking about housing costs.

5. We also need to encourage more mixed income developments such as West Seattle’s High Point. By expanding the use of incentives we can create more of these wonderful mixed communities.

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

Mallahan: I will support efforts to strategically locate farmers’ markets close to mass transit lines and in neighborhoods underserved by grocery stores. Expanding our network of farmers’ markets and P-Patches will help Seattle residents enjoy locally grown, healthy food in the convenience of their own communities.

I will ensure that funding for food banks and other nutrition programs is a priority for the City of Seattle and as mayor, I will be an active promoter of Seattle residents’ charitable giving to such programs.

McGinn: This is an extremely important issue, and several food banks have begun to look for solutions to this very problem. One potential solution would be to create a voucher program through the food banks that would enable low-income families to use them and shop at farmer’s markets (similar to the WIC program does now). Not only will we be providing nutritious foods for low-income families, but also we will help to create a ‘buy local’ movement in the community.

Another tactic is to encourage zoning for places, like the Delridge Neighborhood, that has a lack of access to healthy food. When city-owned property (like the Louisa Boren school site in Delridge) may be available for use the city should work with developers to create a development that suits the neighborhood’s food access needs.

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

Mallahan: It is unacceptable that Seattle has become unaffordable for many working individuals and dual income families. I support the renewal of the housing levy, but we need to do a better job ensuring that non-governmental agencies obtaining funding are held accountable for delivering low-income units under long-term rental price covenants at reasonable costs. I would make agencies that don’t deliver units at low cost ineligible for additional funding. As Mayor, I will be a careful steward of housing levy proceeds, making sure our city government is leveraging the funds to most cost effectively create and improve housing units for low income families.

I also believe that Seattle’s overall inadequate level of housing stock is driving rental and home ownership prices up too quickly. It strikes me that in the past two decades, professionals have begun to acquire what was traditionally workforce housing in our city. We need to find a way to allow robust growth of housing stock while preserving the unique character of our neighborhoods. As Mayor, I will partner with community groups, housing advocates, and developers to fashion a vision for smart housing growth.

McGinn: Affordable Housing should defined by more than just the cost of the housing. It’s defined by the property taxes, utility rates, and access to transit surrounding the housing. So we at the city level would start there, but working to lower the cost of utilities and working with the County to expand our transit options. Then we need to take a much closer look at the various things that are driving up the price of rent, and what we can do to lower them. This would include looking at the land use and permitting costs and determining whether they are in fact hampering a landlord’s ability to rent to a tenant. Finally, we have to work to increase the number of living wage jobs available in Seattle. We could work on just the issue of rent, but the reality is that the whole cost of living in Seattle is much higher and by providing more living wages jobs we will increase a family’s entire

quality of life. We can do this by following the model of such organizations as Van Jones' "Green For All" and begin a transition to a green economy that can provide better jobs for the families here in Seattle.

**CANDIDATES CITY ATTORNEY:
Tom Carr, Pete Holmes**

Q1. What uniquely qualifies you to serve as Seattle's City Attorney?

Carr: Raised in a one bedroom, rent-controlled apartment shared with 5 others in the Bronx, I rose to be an Assistant US Attorney in New York and specialized in organized crime cases while also handling a wide range of civil matters similar to those managed by the Seattle City Attorney. I moved to Seattle in 1991 and become a partner with Barrett Gilman & Ziker and have 25 years of litigation experience in commercial, environmental and other complex cases.

A former board member of Legal Services for the Homeless and homeless women's shelter volunteer, I ran for city attorney in 2001 for special reasons: to help make people's lives better, especially those who need our help the most. I helped raise my developmentally disabled brother, and have worked with the King County Parent Coalition to advocate for better care for the developmentally disabled and he served on the King County Board for the Developmentally Disabled. My father, a combat veteran, was a chronic alcoholic who died in a drunken fall, leaving my mother to raise four kids before she developed Alzheimer's, which claimed her life. The City Attorney affects people's lives in many ways. I will continue to use my compassion and my legal expertise to improve justice for the poor, the ill, and the abused, to benefit all of the people of Seattle.

I have served Seattle as its City Attorney since 2001, and was a founder of the Seattle Municipal Community Court. Community Court started as an effort to more effectively address low-level crimes in Seattle. 57% of Community Court defendants were homeless and 55% reported chemical dependency. Community Court provides these defendants with a means to address their problems and give back to the community. Defendants who chose to participate are given access to social services and required to do community service rather than go to jail. And recognizing that prostitutes are in a vicious cycle of victimization, I also developed a program that makes Johns pay for counseling and treatment of prostitutes, the majority of whom suffered rape or sex abuse as children. And I came up with a novel approach to Seattle's 2nd-in the nation level of car theft, reducing car theft by more than 60% in the City.

But importantly, my compassionate and pragmatic approach have dropped Seattle's share of the King County Jail population from a daily average of 409 in 2001 to just 254 in 2008, leaving jail space available for truly dangerous and violent offenders, including Domestic Violence perpetrators. I have been one of the early leaders in helping Seattle reduce the need for a new jail.

Ultimately, as the only candidate with civic law and prosecutorial experience, I am the only candidate qualified to hold this office.

Holmes: I have spent my 25 year legal career (24 in Seattle) working hard to build consensus in order to achieve lasting solutions. By bringing everyone to the table, I worked to avoid the costly process of litigation whenever possible. I will continue this approach as City Attorney, saving the taxpayers millions in unnecessary judgments. Additionally, as Chair of the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board, I gained hands on knowledge of Seattle's criminal justice system, from participating in ride-alongs and roll-calls with police officers to working directly with leadership at City Hall. I will use this experience to bring a smarter approach to criminal justice in Seattle. On Day One, I will bring a true commitment to alternatives to incarceration and take a leadership role in preventing the need for a new jail. By ending the prosecute-first, litigate-first mentality at City Hall, we can focus on violent and property crimes while conserving resources—something that will become increasingly important with the \$72 million revenue shortfall the City is currently facing. As City Attorney, I will be an advocate for the people of Seattle, not just City Hall.

Q2. What are your priorities for prosecution?

Carr: While I have been City Attorney, crime dropped to the lowest level in 40 years. Working in conjunction with community leaders, elected officials, and police officers, I helped create alternatives to sentencing non-violent and low-level offenders who make up the vast majority of misdemeanor crimes (the City Attorney only prosecutes misdemeanors, not felonies or drug crimes). These low-level crimes impact our quality of life and the security and cohesiveness of our neighborhoods. I hold offenders accountable and yet provide them training, tools, and services that put them into the community. This approach has helped my office direct attention to more dangerous and criminal offenders, such as domestic violence perpetrators.

Holmes: As the City Attorney only prosecutes misdemeanors, violent and property crime must be the paramount focus of the office. I will bring this focus while emphasizing community-based diversion plans to keep low-level offenders out of jail and on a path away from crime. The recently implemented Drug Market Initiative (DMI) is a step in the right direction, but late in coming. I will bring this commitment on Day One and on every day after that, providing opportunities for offenders to break free from the cycle of recidivism as well as providing opportunities for at-risk youth to avoid the criminal justice system in the first place. With these priorities we will reduce our need for jail beds while cracking down on crimes that threaten public safety and our quality of life.

Q3. What do you think are some specific challenges for the City of Seattle's criminal justice response to domestic violence, and what will you do as a City Attorney to address them?

Carr: About once per year, a former misdemeanor offender murders someone. The hardest part of my job is ensuring that DV victims are provided the protection they need so that these violent assaults do not escalate. When a UW Research Assistant was trying to get protection, she went on a circuit that included dozens of service providers. I pulled together several conferences and developed a plan for a one-stop family justice center, so that DV victims and others in need of protection have a single stop to better secure their protection.

Holmes: We need to make sure our Domestic Violence programs have the funding they need and shield them from cuts as much as possible. We also need to do more to support the victims of DV. Currently, DV advocates are employees of the Law Department, potentially confusing their roles with prosecution investigators. As City Attorney, I will push to make these advocates independent in order to ensure that victims have all the support they need.

Q4. What is your approach to addressing crimes against refugees, immigrants, people with disabilities and people without homes?

Carr: I was first robbed at knifepoint at the age of 6 in the South Bronx. I witnessed hate crime as well as horrific crimes against immigrants and the disabled, and those experiences drove me to become a prosecutor; crimes against the vulnerable, the disabled, those struggling with adaptation are among the most deplorable. I take aggressive action against such offenders, and will continue to do so.

Holmes: I am a strong supporter of hate crime laws and feel that crimes motivated by hate and intolerance warrant aggressive prosecution in order to protect our City's most vulnerable populations. I believe we also need to address conflicts in such areas as landlord-tenant law and felon reentry/housing programs.

Q5. People who are homeless, even those who have overnight shelter, must conduct many basic activities (such as resting, eating, etc) in public places. How do you think the City Attorney can respond productively to the reality of homelessness in Seattle and to the existence of laws and regulations that criminalize the conditions under which people who are homeless live?

Carr: I advise the City Council and the Mayor on the legality and constitutionality of policies, as well as the ease of enforcement, but it is not my job to make policy. When the City Attorney makes policy, as previous City Attorneys have done, the process is skewed away from the legislative process that includes public involvement. The creation of the Community Court is my response for how to deal with individuals who violate the laws that

(Carr continued)

the City Council and the State Legislature have passed. But one of the things I am very proud of is that I found a solution for Tent City IV, which had been in a legal backwater for years before I became City Attorney. I believe we can reach similar arrangements with other homeless activities, and that is why I serve on boards of homeless advocacy organizations.

Holmes: We need a new approach to these “crimes of poverty”. Through a proactive, community-based approach, I will work to ensure that our homeless population receives the services they need without fear of being caught up in a sweep of their encampment or even arrested for staying in one. Not only are such approaches detrimental to our homeless, but they are also a waste of time and resources.

Q6. Do you think that Seattle’s Sunshine Laws and policies for implementing it are adequate to ensure citizens access to public information?

Carr: Seattle has one of the best compliance rates for public disclosure in the state, especially in comparison to other jurisdictions. While a small city, Prosser, was fined nearly a quarter million dollars last month, Seattle’s fines for the last several years are one-fourth of what Prosser incurred in a single incident. King County has been fined millions and millions of dollars in the past several years. Our policy is to release information to the public as quickly as that information can be gathered, and as long as we can legally share that information. Sometimes, the release of information involves sensitive data, such as a news outlet request for employee birthdates. Another individual wanted the names of city employees involved in a historically disenfranchised alliance. While I will guide greater openness, I will continue to work to protect the privacy rights of employees.

Holmes: No. There is much that must be done in the City Attorney’s Office alone in order to ensure our City is open and accountable. First of all, indexing of records is a simple solution for making it easier for citizens to request information as well as easier for city employees to find information, saving time on both sides. Currently, the City Attorney’s Office does not publish its opinions for the public’s consumption. I will change this policy. The City Attorney is in a position to be a real leader in government transparency, and I will fight for the people’s right to know every day in office.

**CANDIDATES KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE:
Dow Constantine, Susan Hutchison**

Q1. Do you believe that the City or County has a leadership role in ending institutional racism?

Constantine: Yes. One of Executive Sims' greatest qualities was his commitment to opportunity and fair treatment for all. As county executive, I will continue to use the formal powers of the office and the bully pulpit to ensure all of King County's residents have equal opportunity in education, jobs and community. King County has a strong leadership role to play. The county is a major regional service provider of transit, public safety, and public health. The county is also one of the region's major employers. In these roles it is critical to recognize where the effects of racism remain entrenched, often without even being recognized as such by many, and promoting social equity is a value that should be upheld in everything we do. I have been a leader in working to develop strategic plans for each department in the county. Social equity and justice must be among the criteria by which we measure these strategic plans.

Hutchison:

Q2. In these tough economic times what initiatives will you support to maintain and increase human services in the City or County?

Constantine: I have stated before that I support setting aside a modest but guaranteed portion of the general fund for human services. I also support maintaining two dedicated revenue sources: The MIDD (Mental Illness and Drug Dependency) and the Veterans and Families Levy.

This is a difficult question since the county can not handle this issue in isolation. The state, in pursuing cuts to health care and other critical services, also cut local assistance for myriad services, leaving a budget problem local governments will have to address.

In general, however, I support—and will support in the upcoming budget process—securing and back filling funds to protect needed services, such as care for children, the elderly, mental health and chemical dependency, and protect services that serve other vulnerable populations.

Human services funding is not only important to helping those in need in our community, it is also money well spent to reduce future needs. Human service programs help us to save money by providing assistance to people before their needs become critical and impact our public health and public safety programs even more.

I believe that we must make difficult choices, however, in order to realistically make this commitment. Innovation and efficiencies, as well as targeted cuts, must be embraced in order to free up resources—sound bites and promises won't pay the bills. Part of the motivation for my 2% health care premium proposal is to protect front line service providers from layoffs, and front line services from cuts.

We have to have an honest dialogue, and I look forward to working with you to accomplish mutual goals.

Hutchison:

Q.3 What role do you think the City or County should play in supporting working families with young children?

Constantine: If we want communities with children and families, and we want economically diverse communities, then we must find ways to support working families in building a better life. That means providing the transportation mobility, public safety, health and environmental quality, as well as the human services, to allow families to thrive.

I want to set the foundation for a new prosperity, improving the quality of life in King County for working families. We need real transit and transportation choices, sensible and humane criminal justice, responsible preservation of our environment, and genuine regional leadership. Ultimately, our job is to make government work for people, to hold fast to our progressive principles, and not to get hung up on defending parts of the status quo that are no longer working.

I have been active in my local school, West Seattle High School, nearly since graduation. I co-founded its site council, serving on its alumni association board to raise scholarship funds, and started and still serve on the board of its foundation. And through my work in the legislature and on the council I have supported youth and school programs in the Highline, Seattle and Vashon school districts.

As King County Executive I will fight for investment in our schools, provide the transportation and other infrastructure needed so parents can spend less time commuting and more time with their kids, and assist families in participating in their children's lives.

Hutchison:

Q4. What do you see as the role of City or County government in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault? In what specific ways would you support our regions' domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and response efforts?

Constantine: King County is the regional provider for most of our criminal justice system, and has a special responsibility to be a leader in responding to and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit, Protection Orders Program, and other County functions focused on protecting victims must be preserved despite current budget shortfalls. Prevention and response require not only police, but a continuum of public and private programs aimed at stopping the cycle of violence and abuse.

I have been a strong supporter of human service programs as a King County Councilmember and state legislator. Private nonprofit programs such as the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center and others in the community are indispensable to providing assistance to victims and education to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

Hutchison:

Q5. If you are elected to the office that you seek, what specific steps would you take to respond substantively to the poverty and homelessness in our community?

Constantine: I think that this moment offers a particular opportunity – with the economic stimulus money from the federal government and the prospect of a sustainable economic recovery in the offing, we must tie the new prosperity to opportunity for all - we must make sure that, when the tide that lifts all ships rises, everybody has a boat.

That means infrastructure investments should be tied to apprenticeship requirements. It means that local, small contractors should have a shot at parts of big public contracts. It means that we should re-invest in K-12 and higher education, rather than slashing as the legislature has just done. The "big winners deserve it, and tough luck to the rest of you" ethic celebrated by the 1980s Republicans and their progeny should be cast aside for a new, but very old-fashioned way of thinking: We are one. We are all in this together. Everyone needs to have the chance in our society to fulfill his or her potential, through education, training, and fair and equal treatment.

Hutchison:

Q6. King County and the City of Seattle have endorsed the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. We have made progress on some of the plan's goals but we have not yet provided enough permanent housing to meet people's needs.

How would you strike a balance between meeting people's emergency survival needs and securing more permanent affordable housing?

Constantine: Emergency shelter and survival needs are critical for helping those who continue to need immediate help, especially in this economic downturn. But we need to focus our efforts on moving people towards more sustainable and respectful living conditions.

I served for a decade on the board of the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, and we built or preserved many units of affordable housing in one of the region's most affordable neighborhoods. I believe that we have to use both public and private means to create the amount of housing needed for a growing and economically diverse population of nearly 2,000,000 people. As the county council member representing much of South Seattle and Southwest King County I have been a strong supporter of affordable housing projects in these communities.

Hutchison:

Q7. What role do you think the City or the County should play in supporting our aging community?

Constantine: Affordable housing, public health, transit options, public safety, and human services. These and more are within the responsibilities of local governments, and are crucial to most seniors' quality of life.

Obvious examples are the need to continue to fund senior center programs and health programs for our seniors. Studies have shown that seniors who have opportunities to interact with each other and build a support network have fewer health problems and enjoy a higher quality of life. As our population ages it is fiscally wise and morally imperative that we provide services to our seniors to keep them connected and contributing to our community.

We have a moral responsibility to help provide assistance for the elderly. I have been a lifelong supporter of the West Seattle Senior Center and have witnessed firsthand the difference they have made in many seniors lives.

Hutchison:

Q8. There is an increasing need for access to affordable housing among King County households and yet the County is cutting capital funding for affordable housing development.

Given the decrease in financial means, what are alternative ways you will support and provide incentives for production and preservation of affordable housing?

Constantine: Clearly there is a need for more funding than is currently available, for a range of valuable programs including housing. As mentioned above I served for many years on the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association and learned a great deal about the challenges of successfully preserving or creating low-income and workforce housing.

There are many non-profit organizations out there that are doing wonderful projects to provide more affordable housing. Even during this downturn, King County can help by streamlining permitting and working to co-locate county services in or near new housing. The county can also work to incentivize developers to include more affordable housing in projects that they create. These are tough budgetary times for King County, so we need to harness the creativity and innovation that this region is known for to develop innovative new ways for government to partner with private developers.

Hutchison:

Q9. How would the City or County ensure that everyone in our communities has access to adequate, nutritious food?

Constantine: King County is a key partner in Public Health in our region. We need to continue to promote programs to encourage healthier choices in the food we eat. I think that the Board of Health has done a good

job in elevating this discussion about diet, obesity and chronic disease. The county's "Healthy Incentives" program encourages King County's 13,000+ employees to take responsibility for their own health choices, including healthier eating. And county initiatives like "Puget Sound Fresh" are connecting local farms with the customers who need their products.

I helped secure the county dollars for Northwest Harvest to create a much needed new distribution facility, and have always been a strong supporter of our food banks, including the West Seattle and White Center Food Banks in my district. Food banks are currently stressed by dramatically increased demand and lower donations and government support. We must assist these critical lifeline programs and their key role in assisting those in the greatest need.

Hutchison:

Q10. One in five Seattle renters currently pays more than half their monthly income in rent. What policies would you undertake to develop more affordable housing to ensure that it is possible for working families to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like food, gas and child care?

Constantine: I have always been a strong supporter of both public developments like High Point and Greenbridge and private developments by organizations like the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association and Vashon Household in my district.

We need to promote innovative ways to increase capacity while protecting livability in urban areas that have access to transit and services. Accessory dwelling units and developments such as cottage housing that use shared parking can provide much more compact development with less negative impact on neighbors and the environment.

As King County Executive one of my chief responsibilities is to ensure a strong transit system at Metro and Sound Transit. Good transit is a key part of the affordability equation. The combined cost of housing and transportation can be overwhelming for many. We must promote affordable and convenient transit to lower the living costs and provide access to economic opportunity.

Hutchison: