



Happy New Year!  
*Julia Patterson*  
 Julia Patterson  
 King County Councilmember, District 5

Dear Friend,

As your King County Councilmember, I am committed to advocating for the priorities of South King County. These priorities are based on the feedback I hear from citizens and I encourage you to write and call me with your thoughts. King County was faced with significant challenges in 2009. We dealt with the largest budget shortfall in King County's history. Necessity is the mother of invention and in response to these challenges, we used new strategies and initiatives to operate efficiently and deliver services more effectively. In this newsletter, I want to share some of the highlights and accomplishments from 2009. You can also read an extended version of this newsletter on my website at [www.kingcounty.gov/patterson](http://www.kingcounty.gov/patterson). I hope you'll enjoy reading on how I've worked to serve you in 2009.

December 2009



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JULIA PATTERSON'S 2009  
**2009 YEAR 5 REVIEW**

**2009 YEAR 5 REVIEW**

Visit Councilmember Patterson's Website: [www.kingcounty.gov/patterson](http://www.kingcounty.gov/patterson)

# JULIA PATTERSON 2009 HIGHLIGHTS, KING COUNTY COUNCIL

## SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

- Consultants, audits, and work groups have unanimously advised King County that we have serious problems in our animal sheltering program. In November, the Council adopted the legislation I sponsored to close the King County Animal Shelter by Jan. 31, 2010 and turn to community organizations, such as the Humane Society and PAWS, to provide more humane, efficient care for our animals.
- The people of King County have repeatedly asked for a transparent and independent review of complaints against Sheriff's deputies. After three years of work, Councilmember Ferguson and I helped to establish the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight. This new office will increase transparency in the complaint process and increase the public's trust in the King County Sheriff's Office.
- As Chair of the King County Board of Health, I led a group of public health leaders from six of the largest counties in Washington State to take a public position expression our strong support of federal health care reform and the need for all people to have access to quality, affordable health care.

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

- The proposed "Lake to Sound Trail," a pedestrian and cycling trail which will run from Renton through Tukwila, SeaTac, and Des Moines, will move forward with continued funding from the Parks Expansion Levy and a grant from the federal government.
- In my role as both a King County Councilmember and as Chair of the Flood Control District, I worked to secure approximately \$50 million in funding to protect people and property in the Green River Valley from a potential flood.
- I joined my fellow Sound Transit board members in celebrating the opening of Link light rail, connecting downtown Seattle with Tukwila and Sea-Tac Airport (service will begin December 19th.)

## PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

- As part of the 2010 budget, the Council was able to keep the 39 local unincorporated parks open, even after the Executive proposed they be closed as a budget balancing option.
- The Council unanimously supported legislation I championed to help protect one of this region's most vital resources, our lakes. Beginning in January of 2011 residents in unincorporated King County will not be allowed to use fertilizers containing the plant nutrient phosphorous, which is known to cause harm to lakes. In addition, King County will start a campaign educating people about the negative effects of phosphorous in fertilizers and the new regulation limiting fertilizer containing phosphorous.

Find detailed descriptions of each accomplishment on my website: [www.kingcounty.gov/Patterson](http://www.kingcounty.gov/Patterson)



## 2010 BUDGET

King County is not immune to the recession. Governments all across our nation are struggling to retain critical services. The downturn in the housing market has affected property tax collection, while unemployment rates and economic fears have contributed to residents' reduction in spending. This has resulted in a decrease in sales tax collection. Because funding for some of our most important government functions including public safety, public health, and human services come from property and sales tax, the 2010 budget process was a difficult exercise. We wanted to do everything possible to retain services that King County residents value and rely upon.

This year I was honored to serve on the Budget Leadership Team, the Council's budget decision-making body. I'd like to highlight a few of the bright spots in the 2010 budget.

- Using cost-cutting strategies and staff reductions, the Council was able to prevent cuts in bus service for the next two years.
- The Council balanced the budget without using our "Rainy Day" Reserve.
- No criminal justice agencies will receive cuts of more than 1%, including the Sheriff, District Court, Prosecutor and Superior Court.
- Although the Kent Teen Clinic will close, Public Health is working on partnerships with other health providers to maintain services. Public Health hopes to open a new clinic in the area within two years.
- Even in tough economic times, through prudent spending and the maintenance of reserves, King County will retain its stellar AAA credit rating.
- The Council restored funding for countywide domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, shelter, and legal aide. Restoring this funding was a priority on the Budget Leadership Team due to the undisputable connection between domestic violence and sexual assault with criminal justice and medical costs.

Read more about the budget at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget>

This year I launched a new Facebook page, learned how to use Twitter, revamped my website, and continued with my e-newsletter. In doing so I am able to cut mailing costs, help preserve the environment by using less paper, and deliver information to you in a more timely and effective manner. I want to encourage you to sign up so you don't miss important information about how your government is serving you.

Find me on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CMJuliaPatterson>

Find me on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CMJulia>

Visit my website: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Patterson>

Sign up for my e-newsletter: [www.kingcounty.gov/Patterson/eNewsletter\\_Form.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/Patterson/eNewsletter_Form.aspx)

Call my assistant Sharon, the old-fashioned way, at (206) 296-1005 !

**WORKING FOR US**