



District Eight King County Councilmember Dow Constantine

Spring 2006

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Welcome to the new Eighth Council District!

On January 1, the Eighth Council District expanded. The district boundaries leaped over the Duwamish River and spread eastward across the industrial valley, through Georgetown and up Beacon Hill and West Hill (Skyway); swept northward into Pioneer Square and the International District/Chinatown to the center of Downtown Seattle; and stretched southward to take in the northern parts of Tukwila and SeaTac, and the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park.

It's a big district.

The new boundaries implement the voter-mandated reduction in the number of King County Councilmembers from 13 to nine. The population of each district rises from the previous 138,000 people (a state legislative district, by comparison, has a population of 125,000 and is represented by three legislators) to almost 200,000 people!

I will now have the privilege of representing an even livelier and more diverse district—one that still includes White Center, South Park, Burien, Vashon/Maury Islands, and my lifelong home of West Seattle. Representing so many people over such a large area will be a real challenge, and I am relying on you to help me stay informed about community issues and events.

Whether you are an old friend or a brand-new constituent, I look forward to the chance to speak with you personally in the near future.

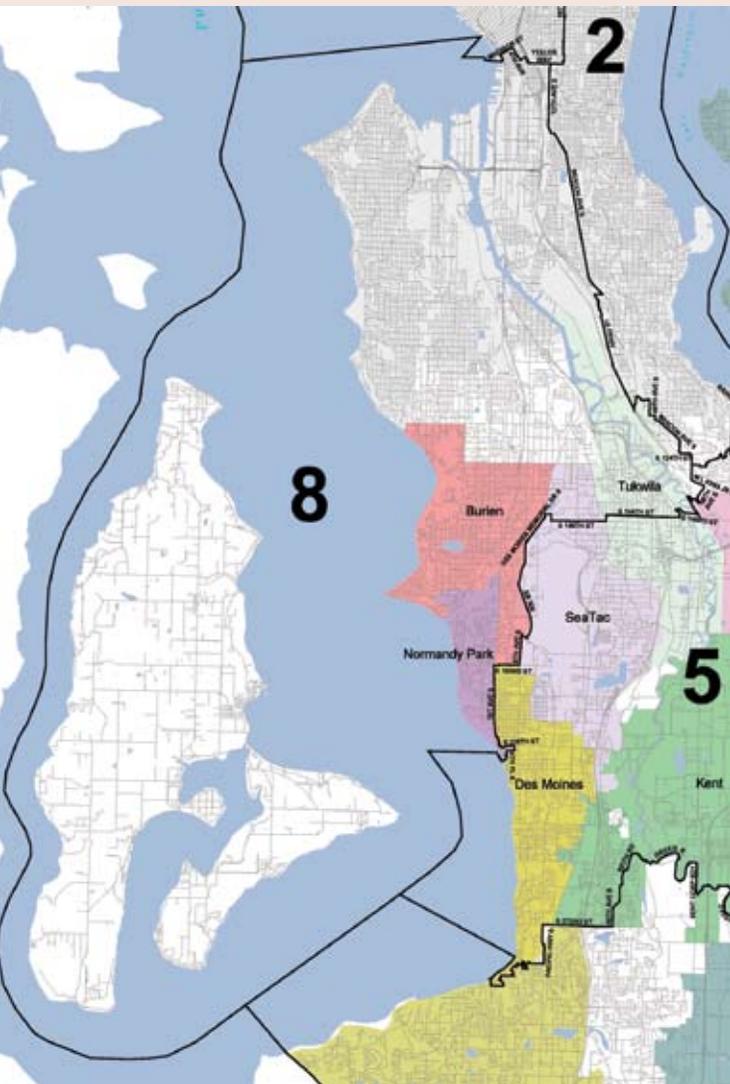
What King County does for you

King County government provides regional services—the kind of services that benefit all citizens of King County. These include the everyday infrastructure that makes our lives work, such as Metro Transit and sewage treatment, plus five major criminal justice functions: District Court, Superior Court, adult detention, juvenile detention, and the King County Sheriff's Office. King County owns and operates the region's major trauma center and public health hospital (Harborview Medical Center), a major airport (King County International, aka

"Boeing Field"), and regional parks and trails. King County is also responsible for public health, veterans' programs, emergency medical services, 911 dispatching and much more.

For the 356,000 unincorporated area residents, a jurisdiction equivalent to the second largest city in the state, King County provides **local** government services, such as roads, police, and enforcement of housing and zoning codes. Unincorporated communities in the Eighth District include Vashon/Maury Islands, North Highline, and West Hill. King County also provides these same local government services to many of King County's 39 cities on a **contract** basis.

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Tashiro Kaplan Lofts provide permanent home for local artists

Artists are tired of being urban pioneers. For years, artists have taken advantage of cheap rents and helped to revitalize urban neighborhoods such as Seattle's Pioneer Square. Within a few years, they are forced out as rents rise and new developments are constructed to cash in on the neighborhood's recovery.

The Tashiro Kaplan Artists Lofts is a project that stops the revolving door. Developed by Artspace Projects, Inc. and the Pioneer Square Community Association, the two reconfigured buildings provide 50 units of affordable live/work space for artists and their families adjacent to the King County Courthouse. State, federal, and local housing dollars were also invested in this project.

The Kaplan and Tashiro Buildings (built in 1906 and 1907, respectively) were sold to the developer by King County in 2000 based on the project's provision of affordable housing and artist live/work space.

Opened in mid-2004, the Tashiro Kaplan Artists Lofts are now home to painters, sculptors, photographers, video artists, dancers, actors, musicians, and writers—plus their families, including more than 15 children.

Another portion of the project houses the offices of 4Culture, the former King County Arts Commission, which provides funding and assistance to projects in the areas of arts, culture, preservation and public art.

Constantine, Gossett meet with Beacon Hill constituents

When the King County Council redistricting process created nine new Council districts, some neighborhoods such as Beacon Hill found themselves split by the new lines.

Councilmember Larry Gossett and I see this "split" as an advantage for the community—we can now combine our efforts to represent the people of Beacon Hill. We marked our new partnership to serve Beacon Hill with an April 10 reception for neighborhood residents at the Beacon Hill Library. The meeting was actually held in my district—the library is located on the west side of Beacon Avenue South, which is the dividing line between the Eighth and Second County Council Districts.



Chatting with Beacon Hill residents at the April 10 reception

More than 25 guests from the neighborhood attended the event, which included good conversation, a question-and-answer session with the councilmembers and fine pastries from the nearby Delite Bakery. Among the topics discussed were the coming Sound Transit link light rail line, Metro bus service, and the city of Seattle's proposals to create a strip club district in the SoDo area and to site a solid waste transfer facility in Georgetown.

I had the opportunity to work with many residents of Beacon Hill and nearby neighborhoods last summer to stop the proposed use of King County International Airport ("Boeing Field") by Southwest Airlines. I look forward to serving Beacon Hill in the future.



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