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# Inside King County

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION VOTERS

## 2010 Early Endorsements

### Sharon Nelson, State Senate 34th LD

Sharon Nelson has been an environmental champion throughout her three-year tenure in the state house. In addition to her unwavering support to protect Maury Island, she played a key leadership role advocating for the Clean Water Act of 2010 and the Transit Oriented Communities bill in 2009.

### Dave Uptegrove, State Rep. 33rd LD

As the Chair of the House Ecology and Parks Committee, Dave Uptegrove is an important advocate for the majority of environmental bills that move through the legislature. He has made both climate change and Puget Sound restoration pillars of his legislative work.

### Mary Lou Dickerson, State Rep. 36th LD

Mary Lou Dickerson is a consistent leader on toxic issues and other environmental health bills. She was the prime sponsor for the Safe Baby Bottle Act which was passed in 2010 after also leading on the issue in 2009. Previous environmental accomplishments include the Toxic Toys legislation in 2008 and the PBDE (flame retardants) priority that passed in 2007.

### Scott White, State Rep. 46th LD

Scott White has only served in the Legislature for two years, but he has quickly asserted himself as a strong environmental advocate. He serves on both the Local Government & Housing and the Capital Budget committees, and is positioned to help the environmental community achieve success on land use and transportation infrastructure issues.

### Geoff Simpson, State Rep. 47th LD

Geoff Simpson is the environmental community's biggest land use champion. Over the years, he has been the strongest advocate on growth management and transportation issues, which he is well-positioned to do as chair of the House Local Government & Housing committee. He is the longest-serving member of the Legislature who has maintained a perfect score on environmental issues.

### Ross Hunter, State Rep. 48th LD

As the chair of the House Finance committee, Ross Hunter is instrumental in working behind the scenes to make sure environmental bills pass out of committee. He was a key advocate for the Clean Water Act of 2010, along with many other bills. His strong advocacy for the environment and his leadership on budget issues makes him a key ally for the environmental community.





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## Port of Seattle Up Close

A cleaner and greener Port of Seattle is finally on the horizon. For observers of the Port concerned about the environment, it’s been a long time coming. Refreshingly, however, the Port moves into 2010 led by five commissioners – including two newcomers – committed to environmental health as an integral component of the Port’s mission.

One only has to look back a few short years to recall a time when there was only one solid vote on the commission, when cleaning Puget Sound and improving our air quality were far from the Port’s radar. That changed as the environmental community became more active in Port races, the electorate became more concerned about the Port’s role in safeguarding our natural resources, and candidates recognized that being pro-environment can be completely consistent with being pro-jobs.

So what has the Port been up to? At the airport, where aircraft operations are the largest source of air emissions, the Port will begin construction on a project that will allow aircraft to hook up to a centralized heating and cooling system instead of sitting and idling at the gate. This will entirely eliminate the need for aircraft to utilize on-board power units that pollute our air – and result in an annual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 13,500 cars from our roads. The airport is also working with the airlines to land aircraft more efficiently, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and to replace the entire fleet of gas and diesel ground support vehicles with electric vehicles.

Stormwater runoff is the single greatest source of harm to Puget Sound. At the airport, an extensive \$75 million retrofit of the stormwater management system allows for treatment of nearly all runoff. A new maintenance warehouse south of the airport utilizes a natural system of swales and oyster shells to treat stormwater and reduce toxins entering Puget Sound.

But much remains to be done. The Port has an obligation to do what it can to improve the quality of wastewater entering Puget Sound. Not all cruise ships refrain from discharging wastewater while they dock in Elliott Bay. The Port is now updating an agreement that includes the Department of Ecology and the cruise ship association and should make sure vessels at berth aren’t adding to the contamination in Puget Sound. The Port must also be aggressive in cleaning up the heavily contaminated Duwamish River. The Port needs to be leader in planning for high quality cleanup.

The Port must also be mindful about reducing air pollution at and around the seaport. This includes making sure that all of the dirty trucks handling cargo at seaport terminals are scrapped and cleaner trucks, compliant with 2007 standards, are operational *well* before the 2017 deadline. Neighborhoods in South Seattle and the lower Duwamish should be able to breathe cleaner air sooner than later.

As the new Commission deliberates on these issues, Commissioners *must* be transparent to the public in its processes and its decision-making. The Port is a successful example of a modern public-private entity, funded in part by tax dollars, in part by private transactions. It is obligated to both promote regional economic activity and protect the public’s assets, including the priceless Puget Sound, on which the seaport sits. Unlike its predecessors, this Commission has demonstrated that it understands those duties. But rest assured, the environmental community won’t let them forget.

*Brendan W. Donckers and Tony Peacock* are the co-chairs of the King County Chapter of Washington Conservation Voters

# 2008 and 2009 Accomplishments

**2008** was a big year for the environment and a big year for King County Conservation Voters. In 2008 all state house and half of the state senate were up for election and we endorsed in over 40 races. We tracked voting records, interviewed prospects, and endorsed old and new champions.

The King County Chapter had a primary goal to elect **Governor Christine Gregoire** for a second term.

- We poured time and resources into the governors race, running nightly phone banks for months.
- The Chapter participated in Independent Expenditures that messaged and targeted our environmental voters.
- We delivered the critical block of environmental voters which made a big difference in this race.

The Governor returned to the legislative process after her re-election with a renewed commitment and passion for environmental causes.

At the legislative level, **Geoff Simpson**, an amazing legislative champion for land use and local government issues was in trouble in his re-election bid in his South King County swing district. He had a well funded opponent and Geoff had taken some strong votes for the environment during the previous legislative sessions, all of which added up to a hard race in this swing district.

Geoff's opponent did very well in the primary. Moving into the General Election, KCCV kicked in to gear to protect this seat. [KCCV doorbelled, phone banked and coordinated an Independent Expenditure](#) that led Geoff to victory.



**2009**, by conventional standards a low key year in politics, is anything but a break for KCCV. There is a long running joke that during the off years we can take a break from electing President and the Governor, but for KCCV the off years are often our busiest. King County is home to 39 cities and several regional governing bodies that all come due in our off years. 2009 was the year for a new King County Executive, several open city council seats from Sammamish to Seattle and three of the five seats up on the Port of Seattle.

The past decade the environmental community had made it a priority to clean up the Port of Seattle. The Port was one of the largest polluters to Puget Sound and had a history of being run by business insiders with little environmental protections. The Port with the election in 2009 of John Creighton, Rob Holland and Tom Albro all endorsed by KCCV joined Gael Tarleton and Bill Bryant to form an unprecedented environmental oriented commission that now has a cleaner greener future and a solid environmental majority. (Read More in Port Close Up)

We had a big agenda for our suburban races and we delivered big wins. Our campaign expertise was put to work in Issaquah. Maureen McCarry running for Issaquah City Council faced a well known and well funded challenger. Our advice made the difference as Maureen focused her message and got down to the basics. Winning with a good margin she thanked us for being a sounding board during her campaign.

## Open Space In King County

*"The Open Space Amendment raised the level of protection on open space that many people over many years worked to preserve. The on the ground support King County Conservation Voters provided to the "YES! OSA" campaign was critical to its success."*

*John Jensen, Open Space Amendment Campaign Chair*

# Meet the new King County Director

After serving several years on the board of King County Conservation Voters, I am excited to be transitioning over to the Director of King County Programs. Our programs are strong, our organization is strategic and well placed and I am looking forward to taking our organization to the next level.

Our mission at KCCV is unique. The environmental community has put its trust in us to endorse and work to elect champions for the environment. We track and score the work of elected officials in King County and distribute this information so that voters can be educated when going to the polls.

This system of accountability with state legislators is what has made KCCV strong in recent years and a program we must expand to the local level. There is an opportunity to more effectively track actions taken by regional, county and city governments. A local scorecard program that tracks and informs local votes on vital environmental programs is a natural next step in our evolution as an organization.

My goals as Director are:

- Expand our program of accountability to include a local scorecard for jurisdictions,
- Build relationships with communities that are not traditionally at the environmental table; and
- Strengthen our ties to the environmental community we speak for to ensure that our voice is united.

*Jessica Brand*  
Director of King County Programs

## King County Chapter Board

Brendan Donckers, 37th LD  
Co-Chair

Tony Peacock, 41st LD  
Co-Chair

Keri Andrews, 32nd LD

Frank Paganelli, 43rd LD

Ezra Basom, 37th LD

Brett Phillips, 36th LD

Megan Blank-Weiss, 43rd LD

Anna Rising, 45th LD

Sylvester Cann IV, 46th LD

Keith Scully, 43rd LD

Pearson Cummings, 37th LD

Rachel Smith, 37th LD

Emelie East, 43rd LD

Bill Sherman, 43rd LD

Maureen Judge, 41st LD

Jennifer Sutton, 5th LD

Mike Lufkin, 43rd LD

Thao Tran, 37th LD

Mo McBroom, 37th LD

Greg Wingard, 47th LD

James Morrison, 41st LD

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