



**The Municipal League of King County**

810 Third Avenue, Suite 224  
Seattle, WA 98104

February 15, 2005

Senator Adam Kline  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
P.O. Box 40437  
Olympia, WA 98504-0556

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Re: SJR 8200 and SB 5015

Dear Senator Kline:

The Municipal League of King County Board of Trustees unanimously supports the concept of merit selection of judges as set forth in SJR 8200 and SB 5015, with the addition of the proposed amendments of the King County Bar Association.

The Municipal League has been rating candidates for office on a nonpartisan basis since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We currently rate district court, superior court, court of appeals and Supreme Court candidates. Our committees are composed of lay persons and attorneys. Our ratings are based purely on the individual's qualifications for the position, not the person's position on issues or political supporters.

This legislation, with the King County Bar Association's proposed changes, would implement a similar process for filling mid-term vacancies and provide needed information to voters about candidates for judicial positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Rita Brogan  
Chair, Board of Trustees

CC: John Ruhl and Alice Paine, King County Bar Association  
Municipal League Board of Directors