



King County

Bob Ferguson

Councilmember, District 1

Metropolitan King County Council

April 21, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Linde
Chief Presiding Judge
King County District Court
516 Third Avenue, Room W-1034
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Judge Linde:

The King County Council will not be appointing individuals to fill the new judicial positions in the Northeast and Southeast Divisions of King County District Court. The positions will instead be filled by the candidates elected by King County voters in the upcoming general election.

As you know, the Council has the authority to fill all district court vacancies by appointment (RCW 3.34.100). The King County Code, chapter 2.70, prescribes a merit selection process for filling such vacancies, including:

- Advertising of existing or anticipated vacancies by the clerk of the Council;
- Rating of interested applicants by the King County Bar Association (KCBA) and any other bar association with an established judicial candidate evaluation procedure;
- Referral by KCBA to the Council of the names of the candidates receiving the highest rating, with a minimum of three recommended candidates for each position to be filled;
- Review of the candidates by the Council's Committee of the Whole, which must then make a recommendation to the Council; and
- Final appointment by the Council.

In the past, the Council has followed this selection process. If this process were applied in the current situation, the appointments would not be made until shortly before the August 2010 primary election. We have determined that it is best to let the election process determine who will fill the new judicial positions.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Chair, King County Council

Jane Hague
Chair, Committee of the Whole

Cc: King County Councilmembers
Anne Noris