

Reality Check: At-Large vs District Council Elections

Four times since 1910 voters in Seattle have been urged to return to district or ward-based City Council elections. Voters rejected these efforts in 1927, 1975, 1995, and 2003.

There is yet another attempt under way today. Petitions to place a city Charter amendment on the November ballot are being circulated around Seattle. One of the principal arguments the proponents advance is that district-based Council elections will attract more candidates, make campaigns more competitive, and improve political representation. Really? The official filing period for the 2009 elections has closed and here is the reality of at-large versus district elections.

Seattle City Council: 4 seats, 16 candidates

King County Council: 5 seats, 7 candidates

At-Large Elections Seattle City Council *(All candidates)*

City Council Position No. 2
Richard Conlin *(Incumbent)*
David Ginsberg

City Council Position No. 4
Sally Bagshaw
David Bloom
Brian Carver
Dorsol Plants
Thomas Tobin

City Council Position No. 6
Jessie Israel
Marty Kaplan
Nick Licata *(Incumbent)*

City Council Position No. 8
Bobby Forch
David Miller
Mike O'Brien
Robert Rosencrantz
Jordan Royer
Rusty Williams

District-Based Elections King County Council *(All candidates)*

County Council District No. 1
Bob Ferguson *(Incumbent)*

County Council District No. 3
Kathy Lambert *(Incumbent)*

County Council District No. 5
Julia Patterson *(Incumbent)*

County Council District No. 7
Pete von Reichbauer *(Incumbent)*

County Council District No. 8
Reagan Dunn *(Incumbent)*
Mark Greene
Beverly Harison Tonda

