Greater Maple Valley Area Council Election Advisory Issues Results Summary (November 6, 2007 Election)

The Area Council has been conducting an Advisory Issue Survey of voters registered in the unincorporated portion of the Tahoma School District (the designated service area for the Area Council) for approximately ten years to gain and maintain an understanding of citizens and their opinions on issues of importance to this Rural Area. These surveys have been conducted in conjunction with the election of members every two odd year general election. Area Council ballots, with the Advisory Issues Survey included, are offered to all eligible registered voters (approximately 10,800 in 2007) in our service area: 1) At all King County polls geographically located within the Tahoma School District, 2) By direct mail request to the Area Council, and 3) an automatic mailing to voters that are automatically mailed ballots for district related elections, because they (the voters) live geographically within the district, but their polling location is physically outside the district. The Area Council mailed approximately 200 "absentee" ballots of which about 20% were returned for counting. The remaining completed ballots were collected from voters at the polls. Historically less than 40% of the voters within King County actually exercise their right to vote and 70%, or more of them, vote by mail. This suggests that less than 4,320 (10,800 x 0.4) people eligible voters in our service area likely made the effort to vote. Further, if 70% of these people vote in general elections by absentee ballots, then the actual number of unincorporated area voters, who vote at polls within the district may be as low as 1,296. The CPA firm that tabulated the results of this Area Council election counted a total of 650 ballots. Since all 650 ballots came from voters throughout our service area met the voter qualification requirements of King County **and** the voters selected themselves to vote, we believe that the results below (in Red) reflect a very close to random sample of our community's opinions on the Advisory Issues. Additionally the Advisory Issues questions were intentionally developed in a way that give voters a nearly complete range of answers to choose from without suggesting any of the possible answers is right, or wrong. For these and several other reasons, I believe that the 650 verified ballots portray a statistically accurate picture of what our fellow citizens in the unincorporated area surrounding Maple Valley believe with regard to the issues presented below. Richard Bonewits

ADVISORY ISSUES: 650 voters

1. WHY DO YOU LIVE HERE? Please circle the letter in front of the statement(s), which figure most strongly in your decision to live in this part of King County.

A. Cost of living/housing. 80
B. Privacy/Solitude/low level of noise. 347
C. Relatives live close by. 66
D. You have family roots here. 110
E. Accessibility to work 74
F. Good place to raise kids and quality of Schools. 247
G. For real estate investment and/or property value. 51
H. Farming or raising of animals. 141
I. Enjoyment of environment/wildlife/farmland/ open space/rivers/lakes. 318
J. Freedom from urban codes, restrictions or covenants. 188
K. To have a rural business or "cottage industry." 31
L. Because of the relatively low level of crime. 142
M. Other _____. 26

2. DEMOGRAPHICS: Circle the letter in front of any statements that apply.

A. I commute out of the area to work, or school. 282
B. I rent the place where I live. 22
C. I own the place where I live. 574
D. I have lived in the Maple Valley area more than 10 years. 388
E. I have lived in the Maple Valley area more than 20 years. 282
F. I live on acreage, 5 acres or more. 181
G. I have children under voting age. 219
H. I have a private well, or small group well (1 to 9 homes). 317

3. ANNEXATION:

Within the next 10 years would you want your home annexed into one of the existing cities? **Circle one answer.**

A. Yes 50 B. No 459 C. Undecided. 123

4. TRAFFIC and Transportation Infrastructure: Circle the words Yes or No to answer questions below.

A. Do you agree that traffic is a major problem in the greater Maple Valley Area and rural area? **Yes** 524 **No** 96
B. Do you believe proposed improvements will make a substantial difference in volume capacity? **Yes** 169 **No** 367
C. Do you favor mass transit options (bus or commuter rail) rather than increased roads? **Yes** 275 **No** 319
D. Should the main roads to the SE King Co. rural area have increased capacity? **Yes** 470 **No** 142

(If the answer to question D is yes, rank the following major incoming roads by order (i.e. 1,2,3,4) for additional capacity):

	Rank 1	2	3	4
___State Hwy 169 (Maple Valley Hwy)	300	82	25	14
___State Hwy 516 (Kent-Kangley Hwy)	27	151	121	79
___King County Petrovitsky road	20	77	132	151
___King County Issaquah-Hobart road	76	88	99	122

E. Do you favor additional taxes to add capacity to main feeder roads? **Yes** 169 **No** 370
F. Do you favor road tolls to add capacity to main feeder roads? **Yes** 78 **No** 462

5. PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIED SERVICES? **Please circle whether you'd like to see (M) more, (L) less, or (S) about the same amount of priority given by King County to the following services.**

A. Recreational Facilities	M 229	L 73	S 298
B. Expanded Regional Ball fields at Ravensdale	M 174	L 149	S 266
C. Carpool Lanes on major highways & roads	M 203	L 135	S 256
D. Bus service and park & rides	M 370	L 49	S 190
E. Commuter Rail System	M 220	L 204	S 164
F. Streamlining of building permit process	M 344	L 76	S 160
G. Protection of Natural Resources & Amenities	M 303	L 88	S 207
H. Code enforcement/tax $ to eliminate drug production	M 297	L 56	S 236
I. Code enforcement/tax $ to eliminate domestic violence	M 208	L 59	S 321
J. Senior services of all kinds	M 262	L 29	S 311
K. Public Health	M 184	L 50	S 354
L. Law enforcement	M 260	L 28	S 310
M. Fire protection services	M 171	L 20	S 406
N. King County buying Open Space	M 188	L 235	S 172
O. King County selling Open Space	M 76	L 335	S 166

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: **Circle the letter, or number, in front of any statements that apply.**

A. I've done volunteer work or contributed money to benefit the environment. 296
B. I vote with a primary goal of benefiting the environment. 197
C. I manage my property with a primary goal of benefiting the environment. 335
D. I commute & travel with a primary goal of benefiting the environment. 102
E. I consume products and recycle with a primary goal of benefiting the environment. 360
F. I think the emphasis on environmental regulations is:
   1. just right. 184
   2. too much. 231
   3. too lax to protect my family and property. 137

7. PUBLIC WATER VS. PRIVATE SYSTEMS: **Circle Yes or No.**

A. If you live in an area served by a public water system, are you connected? **Yes** 256 **No** 172
B. If there is no public water system in your area, do you wish there was? **Yes** 52 **No** 322
C. If a public water system were available, would you hook up if the cost to do so was $14,000 to $20,000 (estimated for a 5 acre parcel)? **Yes** 27 **No** 382
D. Do you support metering of private wells? **Yes** 49 **No** 510

8. ECONOMY: **Circle your answer.**

A. Are you familiar with The King County Rural Economic Strategy Plan? **Yes** 118 **No** 473
B. Do present regulations encourage businesses to locate in King Co.? **Yes** 90 **No** 326
C. Should incentives be given to businesses to promote employment? **Yes** 332 **No** 163
D. Have you been affected by home based business? **Positively** 111 **Negatively** 36 **Not at all** 389
E. Should State & local governments ease regulations to encourage businesses to remain/locate in King County? **Yes** 382 **No** 147
F. Should State and local government provide more educational assistance to retrain unemployed people. **Yes** 316 **No** 204

9. GOVERNANCE: **Circle yes or no.**

A. Would you support an Executive Department of Rural Affairs to provide focus in King County on unincorporated citizens' needs and issues? **Yes** 376 **No** 173
B. Does King County make effective of its tax revenues? **Yes** 61 **No** 472
C. Does King County provide you with enough accounting data for you to accurately answer the previous question? **Yes** 100 **No** 436
D. Should King County departments be subject to periodic performance audits by outside professional auditing firms in conjunction with local citizen representatives? **Yes** 535 **No** 37
E. Should some part, or all, of King County Government be run by professional managers rather than elected

F. Should some King County services be subcontracted using a bidding process? Yes 407 No 135

10. KING COUNTY DEPT. OF DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND KING COUNTY HEALTH:
Answer questions A., B., and C. by circling Yes or No.

A. I believe DDES should streamline the building permit process. **Yes** 428 **No** 103

B. Did you apply for a permit in King County during the year of 2006 or 2007?

1. Building Permit? **Yes** 44 **No** 535
2. Remodel Permit? **Yes** 28 **No** 540
3. Clearing and Grading Permit? **Yes** 20 **No** 549
4. Septic System Permit? **Yes** 22 **No** 547

C. Did you apply for a Rural Stewardship Plan during 2006-2007? **Yes** 10 **No** 544

Rank the following 1-5 with 1 being lowest satisfaction and 5 being highest satisfaction:

D. Rank your satisfaction with DDES, if you have applied for such permit.
Your rank __. #1/89, #2/44, #3/27, #4/10, #5/5

E. Rank your satisfaction with King County Health Dept. if you applied for a septic system permit.
Your rank __. #1/56, #2/23, #3/26, #4/5, #5/8

11. KING COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL: Circle your answer Yes or No.
Do you support a ban on fireworks in King County? **Yes** 255 **No** 360

12. PROPOSED REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX AT RAVENSDALE PARK: Circle Yes or No.

A. Is there a need to expanded the County park at Ravensdale to 8 to 12 playfields? **Yes** 234 **No** 306

B. Do you believe the unincorporated Rural Area is the proper location for a Regional Park? **Yes** 312 **No** 225

C. Do you believe a Regional Park at Ravensdale will adversely affect traffic? **Yes** 313 **No** 233

Add your personal comments concerning this survey here:

165 of the 650 Advisory Issues Surveys contained comments from voters.