

*Councilmember Rod Dembowski's*

# Three Year Report to Constituents

*A summary of key legislation and initiatives from 2013 to February of 2016*



*Rod with Harborview nurses who fly on Airlift Northwest.*



*Mr. Dwight Stevens, Chair of the Shoreline Veterans Association, and Rod at the construction of the Shoreline Veterans Memorial Plaza.*

## Note from Rod

On February 11, 2016 I completed my third year serving on the King County Council. Though elected from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, I am cognizant that my votes and work impact everyone in King County. I wanted to update you on the issues that my colleagues and I have been addressing at King County during the last three years. This report summarizes our work.

My highest priority as a councilmember is working to ensure that everyone in our community has a fair and equal opportunity to achieve their full potential, and live a healthy, safe, and productive life. Today, nearly ten percent of King County residents live below the federal poverty level. Life expectancy can differ by ten years, depending on the ZIP code. These challenges know no municipal or demographic boundary – solving them requires partnerships across the region.

I firmly believe that by deploying the tools we have in hand at King County – from our health department, to our justice system, to our Department of Community and Human Services, to our Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Metro Transit – we have the capacity to address pressing regional issues like poverty, transportation, environmental protection, and disparities in health outcomes.

I take the job of representing you seriously and have **not missed a single vote**. I have voted over 2,300 consecutive times since taking office in 2013. This report highlights some of those votes.

I welcome your comments and ideas for additional areas where we can work together to ensure King County is the best place in America – for everyone – to live, work and play.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. For regular updates, please consider subscribing to my e-news by emailing me at [rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov](mailto:rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov) or by calling my office at (206) 477-1001.



Rod speaking at an event celebrating the removal of the first railroad spike on the County's portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Dembowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" being more prominent than the last name "Dembowski".

Rod Dembowski  
King County Councilmember

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## Health and Human Services

- Secured \$200,000 for sexual assault experts in the Sheriff's office to identify, prioritize, and submit untested rape kits to the State Patrol Crime Lab for processing.
- Led the effort to create King County's Youth Action Plan using the best thinking of children and youth advocates countywide to ensure that all kids in King County can achieve their full potential.
- Co-sponsored the voter-approved Best Starts for Kids levy, which will generate more than \$65 million per year, allowing the County to implement the recommendations of the Youth Action Plan.
- Successfully fought to keep the doors open at Northshore Public Health Clinic, and worked to ensure a stable funding stream to maintain public health services.
- Authored legislation which was unanimously passed by the Board of Health to support Attorney General Bob Ferguson's efforts to raise the smoking age to 21 years of age in Washington State.
- Strengthened the King County homeless encampments ordinance that aims to improve King County's commitment to end homelessness, by requiring a report that examines options for developing one or more micro-housing communities, and a report that would analyze the availability of appropriate County-owned land that could be used for micro-housing communities.



*Interview with KING 5 reporter Linda Byron regarding rape kits testing.*



*Announcing the Harborview-UW contract.*

- Served on the Harborview Leadership Team tasked with ensuring the County's priorities were reflected in the final management agreement between the University of Washington and Harborview Medical Center.
- Represented the County Council on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight (MIDD) committee, and co-sponsored legislation to maximize the effectiveness of MIDD funds.
- Worked on an emergency appropriation to provide additional funds for operating the King County Men's Homeless Winter Shelter.
- Supported a lease agreement with Neighborcare Health to construct and operate a new clinic which opened in the Northgate area in January of 2016.



- Voted for legislation requesting the Executive utilize an existing task force convened to develop sustainable solutions to the psychiatric boarding crisis, to review and recommend short and long term sustainable solutions for prevention, early intervention, and least restrictive alternatives for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.



*At the One Night County in Shoreline.*

- Secured funding for a dedicated staff position to support King County's Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force.
- Joined the annual "One Night Count" with volunteers throughout King County to count the number of men, women, and children who were homeless during one winter night in 2015.
- Secured County grants for North Helpline, Woodinville Food Bank, Roots Young Adult Shelter, and the Hunger

Intervention Program, to help individuals and families in need.

- Added language to the County's State Legislative Agenda urging legislators to support efforts to meet the demand for a wide range of needed human services, including fighting for the restoration of \$7.4 million in cuts to King County mental health and substance use disorder programs.
- Authored a letter, which was signed by the County Executive and all Councilmembers, to the state legislature in 2013 urging legislators to stop the draconian cuts to mental health funding, as proposed in the State Senate budget.
- Helped craft the Emergency Medical Services Levy for the November 2013 ballot ensuring residents of the County would continue to benefit from the best EMS system in the country.
- Authored an amendment to the King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan, which acknowledges the funding crisis of health and human services and declining unrestricted general fund resources.
- Donated retired Metro vanpool vans to Northwest's Child, SHAG of North King County, the Renway Boys and Girls Club, Young Women Empowered, Provail, Turning Point, El Centro de la Raza, YWCA of Seattle, and the City of Shoreline.



*At the Ronald Commons groundbreaking.*

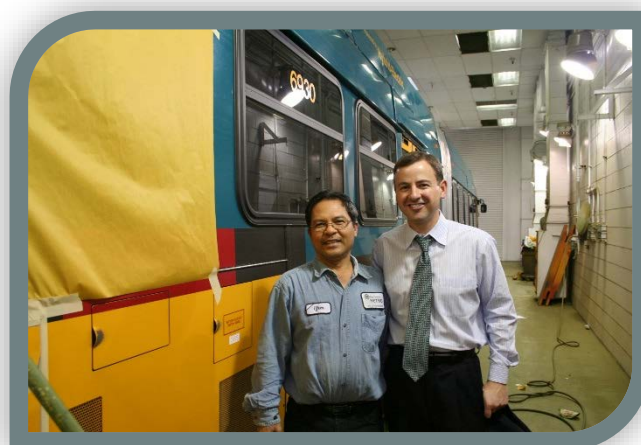
## Transit and Transportation

- Served as Chair of the Regional Transit Committee in 2013 and Chair of the Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee in 2014, 2015, and 2016.
- Prevented proposed reductions of nearly 400,000 annual service hours to Metro Transit, saving more than 10 million annual rides for county residents.
  - Fostered public engagement to help improve the transit restructure that will coincide with the opening of the Husky Stadium and Capitol Hill light rail stations
  - Prevented the deletion of Metro Route 71.
  - Worked to add trips on four peak-only routes: 64X, 74X, 76, and 316.



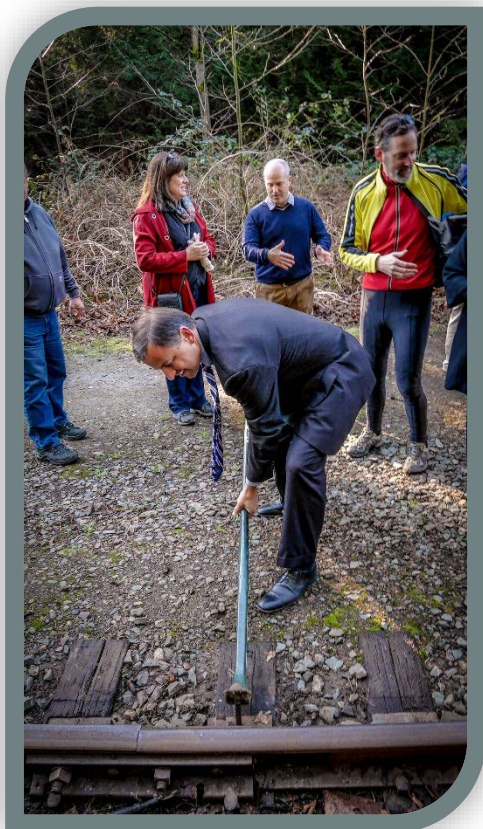
*Hundreds of residents came to speak at a committee meeting called by Rod, on the NE Seattle Metro restructure.*

- Drafted a motion which passed unanimously calling on the Executive to consider several strategies to reduce or prevent the proposed service reductions for Metro Transit in 2015, including:
  - An independent audit of Metro's operations, finances and fund balance policies;
  - Changing fare policies to increase revenue; and
  - Reducing Metro's cost structure and establishing standards through which Metro can be measured against its peers.
- Created a first-of-its-kind independent auditor of Metro Transit; the new Transit Audit Manager is responsible for ongoing reviews and audits of Metro's near billion dollar annual budget.
- Sponsored legislation to enter into a three-year, \$120 million contract to increase bus service in the City of Seattle starting in June of 2015. The agreement is possible thanks to City of Seattle voters' approval of Proposition 1 in November of 2014.
- Authored a letter with then Council Chair Larry Phillips in support of a Federal TIGER grant for the Northgate Pedestrian Bridge.



*Meeting with Metro Transit workers.*

- Inserted language in the 2015-2016 King County Budget to give the Council and its committees an opportunity to evaluate the possible transition to a cashless fare operational model and elimination of paper transfers for Metro Transit.



*Removing a rail spike on the ERC.*

- Authored the legislation creating a Transportation Benefit District to seek funding for transit and roads in King County.
- Sponsored legislation establishing a regional stakeholder transit task force and adopted a task force work plan.
- Joined the Keep King County Moving Now coalition and lobbied Olympia advocating for a state transportation package.
- Joined fellow Regional Transit Committee members in authoring a letter to Governor Inslee, urging him to include local funding options for transit and roads in a statewide transportation package.
- Co-sponsored the first ever King County low-income transit fare.
- Wrote legislation requiring an update for Metro's park and rides and other access to transit infrastructure.
- Worked with Metro to ensure successful implementation of Rapid Ride E-Line, from Shoreline to downtown Seattle.
- Working with Sound Transit and community groups on light rail planning from the University District through Lynnwood.
- Working with other stakeholders on the development of the Eastside Rail Corridor, to ensure the County's goal of developing a shared, continuous, multi-use corridor through the spine of east King County.



*Listening to Metro riders at a hearing to prevent Metro bus cuts.*



## Protecting Our Environment

- Helped lead the effort to permanently preserve the Wayne Golf Course, nearly 90 acres of green space along the Sammamish river for wildlife habitat, salmon recovery, active and passive recreation, and as a community gathering space.
- Secured over \$400,000 for organizations and projects focused on protecting, restoring, and cleaning the waterways of the north Lake Washington system.



*Rod with leaders of the community group OneBothell.*

- Supporting the efforts of Seattle Public Utilities, King County DNRP, and the Thornton Creek Alliance, to continue their breakthrough work to identify and abate sources of pollution in Thornton Creek.
- Co-sponsored the County's Strategic Climate Action Plan, the boldest climate action plan in the country, to ensure King County continues to lead on efforts to address climate change.
- Authored an ordinance creating the King County Metro Transit carbon offset program, requiring the wastewater treatment division and solid waste division to be carbon neutral by 2025, by investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon offsets and other practices to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from operations.
- Voted for legislation expressing deep concerns about the impact of exporting coal to be burned in foreign power plants, and called for a broad review of proposed coal export terminals in Washington State.
- Supported the Green Building Ordinance, which requires that county building projects comply with environmental standards, which will help in the fight in reducing greenhouse gases.
- Authored a motion that directed King County emergency officials to study the risks associated with transporting petroleum products by rail, and to prepare for possible accidents.
- Signed a letter in support of Washington State House Bill 2347, the "Oil Transportation Safety Act," sponsored by Representative Jessyn Farrell (46th), which contained critical tools for the state and local governments to improve transparency, prevent oil spill accidents, and increase penalties to deter reckless barge operations.



*Visiting King County's water quality testing lab as part of our efforts to clean up local waters.*



- Helped secure a substantial King County Flood Control grant to the City of Kenmore for the replacement of the 192nd Street Culvert Replacement Project.



*In Lake Forest Park with Councilmember Dunn and Northshore Fire Department Chief Jim Torpin launching the Take Winter by Storm campaign.*

- Secured funding for the Lyon Creek flood mitigation project in Lake Forest Park, to protect homes and businesses, SR522, and the fire station, from reoccurring floods, while improving fish habitat.
- Co-authored the Skykomish Initiative to preserve the last unprotected old-growth forest in King County, protect the heritage site and spur economic development.
- Amended the County's Federal Legislative Agenda to conserve key lands that would protect important resources including roadless areas, old-growth forest, salmon habitat, trails, river access, and scenic vistas.
- Co-sponsored amendments to the King County Parks Levy, which voters approved with more than 70% of the vote, which:
  - Increased the frequency of the Parks Levy Citizens Oversight Board's report, making the levy more transparent and responsive to changing needs;
  - Required the report be delivered to the Regional Policy Committee to ensure inclusion of cities throughout the region in the annual reporting process; and
  - Required annual reporting on the progress and maintenance of the system, including reporting on noxious weed control.

## Supporting Fairness, Equity, and Workers' Rights

- Led the successful effort to get 12 weeks of paid parental leave for King County employees after a birth, adoption, or new placement of a foster child.
- Partnered with Councilmember Larry Gossett to create King County's Immigrant and Refugee Task Force to investigate ways in which the County can better serve some of our newest citizens.
- Authored and passed an ordinance addressing income inequality through a first-of-its-kind "living wage" policy, requiring a living wage be paid to county employees and to the employees of certain county contractors.
- Sponsored legislation to make King County a founding member of the 100% Talent Initiative, which seeks to close the gender pay gap.
- Wrote and passed legislation requesting the Executive review and take action on the seven recommendations for a family-friendly workplace that were developed by the King County Women's Advisory Board.
- Authored and passed a socially responsible banking ordinance, requiring socially responsible banking practices in order for financial institutions to be awarded banking contracts with the County.



*Speaking at a rally in 2013 to pass the living wage in Seattle.*



*Bill signing ceremony establishing the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force.*

- Worked on an ordinance relating to for-hire transportation, including taxicabs, and for-hire vehicles to balance consumer needs and employee protection in a rapidly changing market place.
- Added language to the County's Federal Legislative Agenda on the County's support for equal and fair pay for all working people, specifically any efforts or actions to reduce gender pay disparity.
- Met and marched with Harborview nurses and medical staff in support of their contract negotiation.
- Signed a letter in support of workers' rights at UW Childcare Center and Harborview.

- Held a hearing in the Transportation Committee to ensure improvements at Metro Transit in response to citations issued by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries related to inadequate restroom facilities for Metro bus operators.



*Supporting fast-food workers in North Seattle.*

- Escorted striking fast-food employees back to work at 5:00am in the morning, in support of their efforts to earn a living wage.
- Wrote an ordinance relating to the Children and Family Justice Center, appropriating \$1 million to be used to recruit workers and provide jobs in assisting with the construction of the facility. The program will help ensure diversity in the project workforce as well as achieve the contract's goals

for hiring and training veterans, women, minorities, and youth. It includes King County's first Targeted Hire Program to employ workers from economically distressed neighborhoods in King County.



*Rod and former Seattle Councilmember Jean Godden celebrating the progress on paid parental leave in our region at a roundtable discussion with United States Secretary of Labor Tom Perez and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray.*



## Law and Justice

- Co-sponsored and authored key language in the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight Charter amendment to ensure independent bargaining of civilian oversight provisions in labor agreements.
- Supported efforts to combat human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children



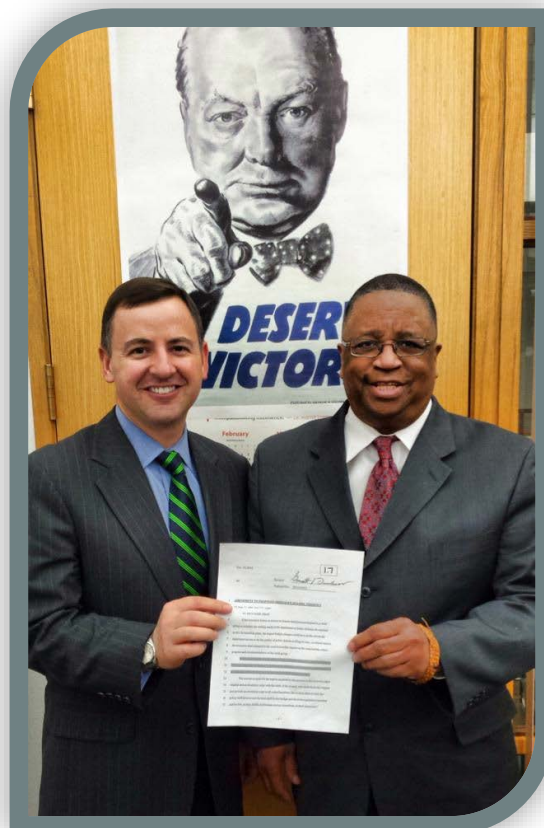
*Working on public safety issues with King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg and Sheriff John Urquhart.*

through development and placement of human trafficking outreach information in certain locations across King County, including county facilities.

- Sponsored legislation to give our deputies the authority to impound watercraft when making an arrest, or when a vessel cannot be otherwise secured or

released to a person who can safely operate the watercraft.

- Played an active role in the restructuring of the King County Department of Public Defense by adding access to justice and equity in the criminal justice system as a duty of the department, and establishing a public defense criminal justice reform advisory task force to provide recommendations for preserving the national reputation of the county's public defense services.
- Voted for King County Ordinance 2013-0285, which modernizes King County's practice of honoring administrative detainer requests issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and sponsored amendments including:
  - A "Sunshine Amendment" that requires quarterly reporting on detainer practices; and
  - An amendment establishing an oversight committee to review the implementation of the new detainer policies and make recommendations on any further changes.



*Rod and Councilmember Larry Gossett celebrate the passage of their budget amendment 1.7 which prevented drastic and unnecessary cuts to the public defense budget.*

## Supporting Our Veterans

- Hosted a recognition commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice at the July 22, 2014 meeting of the King County Council.
- Co-sponsored legislation to ensure pay equity for all King County employees serving in the uniformed services, to make sure that our service members are

treated equally and fairly while they defend our nation.



*Rod in Shoreline on Veterans Day 2015.*

- Voted for a motion accepting the Improving Programs and Services for Incarcerated Veterans Report.

- Secured a \$10,000 grant in 2013, a \$10,000 grant in 2014, and a \$20,000 grant in 2015 for the Shoreline Veterans Association to build the Shoreline Veterans Memorial.

- Helped dedicate the Valor Apartments, a new 21 unit affordable housing program for homeless veterans with disabilities located in Lake City, which included funding from King County.
- Helped secure \$2.85 million in funding for Ronald Commons in Shoreline, a brand new 60 unit building of affordable housing from Compass Housing Alliance, including units for veterans and families, and support services from Hopelink.
- Joined King County's recommitment to end veterans' homelessness through Operation WelcomeOneHome.



*Rod with his son, Evans and Camden, his dad and Joint Base Lewis McChord commander Col. Daniel S. Morgan.*

## Increasing Access to Elections

- Successfully passed legislation requiring voting materials in King County be translated into additional languages, starting with Spanish and Korean.
  - Wrote legislation requiring the development of a plan that will expand ballot drop box locations.
  - Partnered with Clear Channel Outdoor, King County Elections and the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific Americans to inform readers about the general election



*Rod with leaders of the Korean American community after a hearing on the voting access legislation.*

through seven highly-visible and impactful digital rotating billboards in English, Chinese and Vietnamese.

- Inserted proviso language in the 2014 budget requiring the County Executive to examine and recommend improvements to our current outreach strategies and translation services.
- Sponsored legislation to make proposed annual precinct alterations available to the public, before they are transmitted to the council.



*Rod with community leaders unveiling the billboard campaign to promote voting.*