

# Memo

To: Commissioners  
From: Wayne Barnett  
Date: August 26, 2009  
Re: Voters' Pamphlet Statements

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The Voters' Pamphlet Rule that bars candidates from discussing their opponents has been a contentious issue for the Commission, and I thought it was a good idea for the Commission to have some concrete examples of how we apply the rule. What follows is a list of statements we rejected for violating the rule this year coupled, in most cases, with the changes the candidates made to their statements to bring them into compliance.

It continues to be my advice that the Commission not simply repeal this rule. RCW 29A.32.230 requires that the Commission adopt a rule that "[a]ny statements by a candidate shall be limited to those about the candidate himself or herself." The Commission's rule has been upheld by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

If, however, the Commission is not comfortable with the administration of the rule, I would advise that the Commission recommend that the City seek the deletion of this requirement from State law.

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Application of Voters' Pamphlet Administrative Rule 4.3: "The written submission must not discuss the candidate's opponent(s)."

## **PRIMARY**

### **Submitted:**

I don't remember a time when Seattle was less influential. When the Mayor asked for transportation stimulus money, Seattle got nothing. When the Mayor asked for help in getting \$30 million from the new Sonics owners, Seattle got nothing. Time and time again, Seattle comes away empty-handed.

### **Final:**

I don't remember a time when Seattle was less influential. When the City asked for transportation stimulus money, Seattle got nothing. When the City asked for help in getting \$30

million from the new Sonics owners, Seattle got nothing. Time and time again, Seattle comes away empty-handed.

**Submitted:**

[T]he current mayor doesn't have a vision for preserving and enhancing our quality of life while keeping Seattle livable and safe....

**Final:**

City Hall doesn't have a vision for preserving and enhancing our quality of life while keeping Seattle livable and safe.

**Submitted:**

...[O]ur current mayor has created an environment in city government where good people can't innovate, citizens' concerns are ignored, and inept management is tolerated.

**Final:**

...[O]ur current City Hall has created an environment where good people can't innovate, citizens' concerns are ignored, and inept management is tolerated and even promoted.

**Submitted:**

The Viaduct public policy fiasco is one example of what is wrong with the current administration.

**Final:**

The Viaduct public policy fiasco is one example of what is currently wrong at City Hall.

**Submitted:**

What does it say that three diverse organizations...have endorsed my candidacy over the 12 year incumbent?

**Final:**

What does it say that three diverse organizations...have endorsed my candidacy?

**Submitted:**

My opponent, the incumbent, joined King County Council Republicans to sue Sound Transit and stall light rail. He's also been the general naysayer on many council projects from improving the Mercer traffic mess to hastening the Sonics departure.

**Final:**

Nothing comparable.

**Submitted and final:**

...[T]he "Seattle Way" has turned out to be a kind of hardball Chicago style politics.

I am the only candidate in this race who opposes...

I'm proud to be the only mayoral candidate endorsed by...

I am proud to be the only candidate in this race to receive the endorsements of...

## GENERAL ELECTION

**Submitted:**

I'm the only candidate with a track record of management skills and experience to...

**Final:**

I have a proven track record of successful management and executive experience ...

**Submitted:**

No one on City Council or in the race has the experience or knowledge I have to bring real oversight to the city's budget process.

**Final:**

I would be the only Council member with the fiscal knowledge to bring real oversight to the city's budget process.

**Submitted:**

I am also the only candidate who opposes ...

**Final:**

No comparable construction.