



# MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY

## JAMES R. ELLIS

- Member of Municipal League – 1949 to present
- Part time legal counsel to the League – September, 1950 – 1952
- Member, League Government Studies Committee – 1949-52
- Member, board of directors – 1954-65
- President of Municipal League – 1960-62
- Vice-chair of National Municipal League – 1965-71
- Member of Municipal League Advisory Council – 2005 to present

### ***Key accomplishments***

- Major leader in the establishment of first King County charter.
- Mr. Ellis took a short-term leave from his law firm and League activities to work with King County Prosecutor's Office to draft the first charter.
- While campaigning for the charter, Mr. Ellis noted the lack of basic infrastructure in communities around the county.
- 1953-55 - Chaired the League's Metropolitan Problems Committee resulting in two influential papers: "Shape We Are In", and "Shape of Things to Come".
- 1955-57 - Due to the League's efforts, Seattle mayor formed and appointed Mr. Ellis to the Metropolitan Study Committee.
- 1958 - This led to the creation of the "Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle." The first "Metro" proposal, which included authority for water quality, regional parks, comprehensive planning, and mass transit, failed at the ballot on March 11, but a narrower plan focusing on sewage treatment passed on September 9, 1958.
- 1960-62 – As chair of the Municipal League, Mr. Ellis grew the organization's membership to over 5,000 people.

### ***Key Awards***

- 1958 – The Municipal League honored James Ellis with its first annual "Civic Award" as Outstanding Citizen
- 1968 – Outstanding Citizen award
- 1989 - Regional Citizenship Award
- Mr. Ellis's stellar leadership in the League and our community is recognized each year when the League honors a regional civic leader at our Civic Awards event. The James R. Ellis Regional Leadership award is given to the individual or organization who, through appointed, elected, commissioned, or volunteer service, has contributed significant leadership to the region in the examination of regional public policy problems and solutions.

### ***From remarks upon receiving Municipal League's Regional Citizenship Award***

“To any who may be tempted to chase their [regional community] dreams, never doubt that your visions can happen. Bridges of community can be built over all the roadblocks and ditches. We are, after all, neighbors who care about each other and have learned to love the same place.”

- Jim Ellis