

Ed Washington

Deputy Presiding Officer Metro Councilor
District 5

Ed Washington has served on the Metro Council since 1992. He represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, North Portland, Northeast Portland, downtown Portland and a portion of Southwest Portland.

Washington chairs the council Regional Environmental Management Committee. He also serves as a council representative to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, the Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee, the Regional Environmental Management Policy Advisory Committee, the Regional Environmental Management Rate Review Committee and the North Portland Enhancement Committee.

Washington, retired from a career in marketing with US West Communications, works part-time as a community relations officer at Portland State University.

Throughout his career, he has been involved in many civic activities such as serving as president of the Portland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for two years. He also has served as a member of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Advisory Board, the Columbia-Willamette chapter of United Way, the Multnomah County Mental Health Advisory Board, the Portland Cost Alternative Task Force for the Mid-County Sewer Project, and the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance Board. He serves on the board for Self Enhancement, Inc.

Washington has a bachelor's degree in social science from Portland State University. He has two sons, and he likes to garden and play golf in his spare time.

Send e-mail to:
washington@metro.dst.or.us
Telephone: (503) 797-1546
Fax: (503) 797-1793

Metro Councilor, District 5

Ed Washington

600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, Oregon 97232-2736
797-1546 (Metro)
284-1743 (home)

Councilor Washington has served on the Metro Council since 1992 and currently serves as chair of the council's Regional Facilities Committee. He represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, downtown Portland, North Portland and Northeast Portland.

In addition to his duties as chair of the Regional Facilities Committee, Councilor Washington is a member of the council's Transportation Planning Committee and of the Metro Policy Advisory Committee. He also is a member of the Greenspaces Citizens Advisory Committee, the Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. He formerly served as the council's deputy presiding officer.

Councilor Washington works part-time as a community relations officer with Portland State University and is retired from a career in marketing with US West Communications. He has a bachelor's degree in social science from Portland State University.

Councilor Washington has been heavily involved in civic activities throughout his career, serving as president of the Portland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for two years. He also has served as a member of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Advisory Board, the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the United Way, the Multnomah County Mental Health Advisory Board, the Portland Cost Alternative Task Force for the Mid-County Sewer Project, and the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance Board.

Councilor Washington is married, has two grown sons, and likes to garden and golf in his spare time.

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

Metro is responsible for growth management, transportation and land-use planning; solid waste management; operation of the Metro Washington Park Zoo; regional parks and greenspaces programs; and technical services to local governments. Through the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission, Metro manages the Oregon Convention Center, Civic Stadium, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Expo Center.

Metro is governed by an executive officer, elected regionwide, and a seven-member council, elected by districts. Metro also has an auditor, who is elected regionwide.

For more information about Metro or to schedule a speaker for a community group, call 797-1510.



METRO

OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF OREGON)
) SS.
County of Multnomah)

I, Ed Washington, do solemnly swear, or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and the laws thereof, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Councilor of the Metropolitan Service District according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Edward James Washington

Subscribed and sworn before me this 14th day of February,
1992.

Paulette E. Allen
Notary Public for Oregon

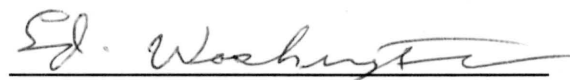
My commission expires 12/22/95



OATH OF OFFICE

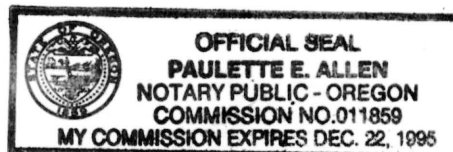
STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
County of Multnomah)

I, Ed Washington, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Councilor of Metro, and that I will support the Constitution and Laws of the United States, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Oregon, and the Charter and Laws of Metro, according to the best of my ability.


Ed Washington

Subscribed and sworn before me this
fourth day of January, 1993.


Notary Public for Oregon
My Commission Expires 12/22/95

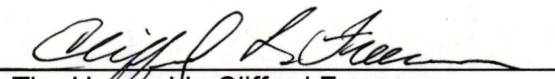


STATE OF OREGON
County of Multnomah

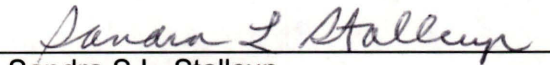
METRO
Oath of Office

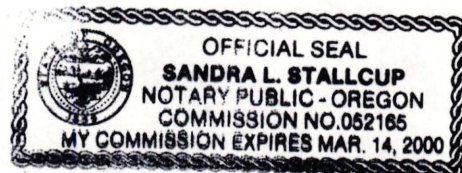
I, Ed Washington, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Metro Councilor, District 5, and that I will support the Constitution and Laws of the United States, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Oregon, and the Charter and Laws of Metro, according to the best of my ability.


Ed Washington, Councilor
District 5


The Honorable Clifford Freeman
District Court Judge
Multnomah County

Subscribed and sworn before me this
7th day of January, 1997


Sandra S.L. Stallcup
Notary Public for Oregon
My commission expires March 14, 2000



BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOGNIZING THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF METRO COUNCILORS JON
KVISTAD AND ED WASHINGTON

) RESOLUTION NO. 00-3000
)
) Introduced by David Bragdon, Presiding
) Officer; and Councilors Bill Atherton, Susan
) McLain, Rod Monroe, and Rod Park

WHEREAS, Mr. Jon Kvistad has worked to bring prosperity to our region since joining the Metro Council in 1993, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ed Washington has worked to sustain the livability of our region since joining the Metro Council in 1992, and

WHEREAS, both gentlemen have furthered the mission and work of the Metro Council through their leadership, and

WHEREAS, both gentlemen have championed the protection of our openspaces and parks for future generations with the passage of the 1995 bond measure and the purchase of more than 6,300 acres of land to be held in trust for the people in perpetuity, and

WHEREAS, both gentlemen have helped to craft and implement a unique and effective land-use tool, the 2040 Growth Concept, that will preserve both the vibrant urban neighborhoods and the rural nature of our region for decades into the future, and

WHEREAS, both gentlemen have encouraged the development and financial support of a balanced transportation system that works for all citizens, and

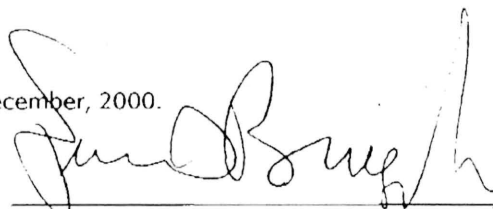
WHEREAS, both gentlemen have supported the ability of the Oregon Zoo, the Oregon Convention Center and the Expo Center to constantly re-invent and re-develop themselves as world-class facilities that are capable of serving the needs of our citizens as well as being capable of great success in a competitive business environment, and

WHEREAS, both gentlemen have supported a system of environmental management that is both ecologically sustainable and cost-effective for the region's ratepayers, and


WHEREAS, both gentlemen have fought for all voices to be heard and respected in our government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby recognizes and honors their many devoted many years of service.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 14th day of December, 2000.


David Bragdon, Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel



Hi Mr. Washington,

4/20/2009

Thanks so much again for meeting with me the other day! I really enjoyed hearing your stories and I look forward to getting some on tape this coming Thursday, May 7th.

As I said, here are some topics I am thinking about addressing in the interview:

1. Growing up & Living your life in Portland & the Civil Rights Movement in Portland
2. Hardships you faced at Metro, as well as your biggest successes. Some of the successes you mentioned last time: Affordable Housing, MLK Jr., the Urban Growth Boundary, Interstate Light Rail, Sewer Projects. I especially want to focus on your role in these projects, but also your experiences working with the council itself.
3. Family, Education, Travel, Community & Volunteer Activities and how this affected/was affected by your time at Metro.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these topics, or anything to add.

Thanks so much for your time,
Amanda Radmacher

Dear Mr. Washington,

5/9/2009

Thank you so much for taking the time to participate in the Metro Oral History Project. I believe the information you shared with me during the interview will be useful for future researchers, if not all together enjoyable to listen to. I certainly enjoyed hearing you tell your stories.

I will be mailing you a copy of the interview on CD. I hope you enjoy it. Currently, I am in the transcription process and hope to have a copy of that to you soon, as well.

Again, thanks so much for your help.

Sincerely,

Amanda Radmacher

METRO ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
PRE-INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE/BIOGRAPHICAL
INFORMATION

NARRATOR NAME: Ed Washington

ADDRESS: 6242 NE 41st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 92111

TELEPHONE: 503-284-1743

E-MAIL: washington@pdx.edu

PLACE OF BIRTH: Birmingham, Alabama

DATE OF BIRTH: 2-26-1937

YEAR YOU OR YOUR FAMILY ARRIVED IN OREGON: June 6, 1944 to Vanport, Oregon. All records lost in the flood in 1948. 8 children total + mother. Only one sister. Genealogy: Drakes, mom's family Virginia & North Carolina (1859, 1846, 1844) Did not come here with English names so hard to track back any farther

FAMILY HERITAGE: African American

FAMILY INFORMATION:

SPOUSE'S NAME, OCCUPATION: Married 39 years to Jean Washington, born March 21st, 1939. teacher, music specialist. widowed

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH:

Keith Washington, just married in his 40's, pilot with Nike (used to work for United)
Date of birth: July 2nd, 1964

Kevin Washington, not married in his 40's, computer graphic animator "starving artist"
Date of birth: June 16, 1966

INTERVIEW DATE AND TIME: May 7th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. In Mr. Washington's office, Cramer Hall, Portland State University

EDUCATION/DATES: 1941-1944 grade school, Birmingham, Alabama: Harriet A. Tuggle Grade School. Entered at 4 years old because Tuggle was a segregated school, teacher knew his mom (Virgie Sunny), already knew how to read. #2 school in Vanport, Oregon, put him back to 2nd grade because was too young. School #1 until flood of 1948. After flood: Couch Grade School (Metropolitan Learning Center now), Guilds Lake School, Holladay Grade School—Swan Island—Irvington Grade School 1950-1952. 1952-56 Grant High School. Portland State University in 1957 at night school & working graduated in 1974 with Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts.

YEARS SPENT WORKING AT METRO AND ACTIVITIES YOU WERE INVOLVED IN:

Being able to push affordable housing, partial victory never implemented. Acquisition of regional parks. Reinitiation of interstate light rail, voted down Vancouver/Portland line, public hearings, at least got interstate done. Regional planning, passing ordinances about the Urban Reserves. Extending the Urban Growth Boundary. Greenspaces program The most important: Metro Charter established it as a true regional government in 1992/93. Building of 1st new building at Expo center. Funds for the 2nd as well. Creation in cooperation with the state and county with establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, connects regions, states can come in and fix, bittersweet because of gentrification, by product of opening, African American did not benefit.

OTHER JOBS:

1948-1951 office boy at the boy scout headquarters. 1951-56 various jobs always working. 1956-1960 OHSU. 1960-66 Cromwell Taylors (Clothes) 1966-67 Phone company. 1968-74 Continental Airlines. 1974-1992 back to the Phone company. 1992-2000 Metro. 1963-present part time at Portland State University. Retired from Phone in 1992.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS YOU HAVE WITNESSED AT METRO AND IN PORTLAND (i.e. changes in economy and industry, population composition, etc.):

Increase in African American opportunities here, decrease in opportunities at the same time. Witness arrival of new diversity in this city, trying to embrace it, recognize it. Civil Rights Laws. People of color live where could afford. Job opportunities not perfect or automatic, but much more than what was available when he graduated in 1956.

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (i.e. school board, women's associations, grange, county fair, fire department, police department, mayor, city council, etc.):

President of NAACP in late 1980s, 85-86-87, for two years. City & County boards. Midcounty Sewer Advisory Board (NE 42nd to 185th east) cess pools, septic tank 1980s government gave money to hook up people to sewers, huge for the ground water. Non-profit boards. Northwest Pilot Project. Metropolitan Youth Advisory Board. Lifeworks Northwest. Multnomah County Mental Health Advisory Board. Urban Forestry Commission (trees). Help make a difference for others. Never about me. 1st metro, no agenda. Serving the people "what's your vision?" People like agendas. Just to help in anyway. Not an "I" person.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT HAVE IMPACTED YOU AND YOUR FAMILY (floods, fires, earthquakes, etc.):

Vanport Flood, fire in Vanport as well. Mom separated when 9, mom raised them. Look back at her life, what she could have been if not raising them. Taught him how to treat people. White people that met here, people of good will operating in good well. "Things will change be ready" Married with two sons, 39 years a lot like mom. Direct result of people of good will. Work directly with three presidents of Portland State University, Dr. Remary, Dr. Bernstein, Dr. Wievel. Teach part time at Portland Community College.

Mary Lou Webb. School of MSD, racial struggle for job market. Only fired once in life, mouthed off to waitress when 15, learned lesson.

**PLACES IN OR NEAR THE COMMUNITY THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU
(i.e. natural sites—Columbia River; fishing sites; recreation sites):**

Northeast Portland, all parts—Mississippi, MLK, Vancouver, 15th (33rd) Rose Quarter, Lloyd Center, grew up in that area. Alberta, Irvington, to see the changes. Don't hesitate to tell how it was. They were here before you. Gentrify a neighborhood they're going to be like you. Go to Japan they're not going to be like you. We are different. Come from different life experiences. Don't look like me but that's all.

Interview Questions for Metro Councilor Ed Washington

1. Please state your name, and When and where were you born?
--When and why did you move to Portland?
2. Please describe your family.
--How was growing up with just your mother and 7 siblings? What were your living conditions like before the Vanport flood? After the flood? In what ways did the flood change Portland as you knew it?
3. What was Portland like during your childhood/teenage years?
--What did you want to change about Portland? What did you love about Portland?
4. Would you please briefly describe your experience in the Portland school system?
5. You experienced the struggle for civil rights here in Portland. How did it influence the person you have become today? Your work as a public representative? What role did you play?
--How has Portland changed?
6. What kind of work experience did you have before becoming a Metro Councilor?
--How did these experiences affect your work on the Metro Council?
7. When did you get married? Have children? How did these events change your life? How did your wife support you during your years with Metro?

8. Your profile showed you have volunteered for many community boards and organizations. Which boards and organizations do you feel were significant and why?

9. Why did you decide to run for public office in 1992?

--Why Metro?

--Who did you represent at Metro? How did you determine what this constituency wanted?

10. What skill sets did you bring to your position as an elected official?

--Where do you feel you acquired these?

11. What challenges did you face from within Metro?

--What challenges did you face (both individually and as a collective council) from outside forces?

12. Could you describe a typical day in your position as a Metro councilor?

--You worked at PSU part-time while a Metro councilor. How was time split between these two endeavors?

13. Please describe some of the significant projects and assignments you worked on while at Metro.

--Which were personally satisfying? Why?

--How was the community impacted by some of the projects you feel were personally rewarding or satisfying and why?

--How were you selected for these projects?

--You mentioned affordable housing and the creation of the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). What did HTAC do? What are your feelings about affordable housing? [Adjust questions based on what he responds. Could be Greenspaces, Innerstate Rail, Expo center, UGB, MLK Jr., Sewer, etc.]

--What sort of obstacles did you have to overcome to pass this? (Kvistad, McCaig, Morrisette opposed, etc.)

--Why was it so important to you? (Did living through the Vanport flood have anything to do with your feelings?)

--How do you feel the council has handled the affordable housing situation since your departure? What would you change/keep the same?

--Could you give a quick definition of the Urban Growth Boundary and your opinion as to whether it should expand or stay the same.

--You also mentioned the anointing of MLK Jr. Blvd. as a "main street." How did this change the street, and Portland? Why was this meaningful for you?

14. What was your personal mission for serving on the Metro council and how did that compare with what was actually accomplished?

15. What sort of disappointments did you experience while serving Metro?

16. Who were some of the more interesting/prominent figures you came into contact with during your years with Metro?

--In searching the correspondence files at Metro and talking with you during the pre-interview it became apparent that you have been an avid traveler. What were some of your favorite trips? How did this change your perspective of Portland, and the world?

17. Could you please describe any special awards, honors, or distinctions you received as a result of your service?

18. Why did your service end in 2000?

19. How do you feel you personally shaped the Metro council overall? What about the affect you had on subsequent councilors?

20. What did you gain from your years as a Metro councilor?

21. What organizations/professional pursuits have you been involved in since your departure from Metro?

--How do you feel your years with Metro shaped these experiences?

22. What connections with Metro have you had since your departure?

23. Is there anything we didn't cover that you would like to add?

24. Do I have your permission to make this recording available to the public?



METRO

**Metro History Project
Digital Archive of Metro Councilors
Metro Councilor Oral History Interviews**

Purpose and Scope of the Project

Since 2005, Metro has partnered with the Department of History at Portland State (PSU) to research and document the public service of Metro's elected officials, and provide public access to the information through web-based technology.

To date, PSU students have been working with primary resources to research councilors' terms of office, district representation, internal and external committee assignments, policy initiatives, and professional background. In researching the public service of Metro councilors, students have been reviewing councilors' professional papers including (but not limited to) correspondence, speeches, newsletters, calendars, photographs, and information relating to community events, and special engagements/awards.

Another component of the practicum is for students to gain firsthand experience in conducting an oral history interview. Oral history interviewing records a person's recollection of experiences, thoughts and feelings about a specific event or a period of time. It gathers data not available in written records about people, events, decisions, and processes. In essence, oral history is spoken history grounded in memory. It can reveal how individual values and actions shaped the past, and how the past shapes present-day values and actions. With this in mind, students participating in this project have been asked to conduct interviews with Metro councilors to capture their personal reflections and anecdotes regarding their public service; to gather insight about municipal politics; and to further the goal of documenting Metro's history as a public agency.

The **Interview Release Form** provided below documents permissions and guidelines for the use and custody of the information gathered during the interview process.

INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM

I hereby give my permission to Amanda Radmacher (student interviewer) to use the information gathered in this interview for educational purposes relating to their coursework at Portland State University. It is my understanding that this recording will permanently reside in the Metro Archives, and that the transcript of this interview will become part of the **Metro Digital Archive**. Upon review (with minimal revision allowed), I release all claims and rights to this recording and transcript.

Signature of Interviewee: Edward J. Washburn

Signature of Interviewer: Amanda Radmacher

Date of Agreement: 5-7-09