

January 6, 2025

Seattle City Council  
600 4th Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104  
[councilvacancy@seattle.gov](mailto:councilvacancy@seattle.gov)

Re: District 2 Vacancy

Dear Council President Nelson and City Councilmembers,

I believe Seattle residents all want similar things: healthy, safe and affordable neighborhoods, great schools, good-paying jobs, a supportive business environment, and a responsive City government that provides basic services effectively while meeting the needs of our most vulnerable. The more difficult question is how to achieve these goals. No one person or group has all the answers, but collaborating together – businesses, labor, community and advocacy groups, faith communities, and everyday residents – I know that Seattle can be a great and welcoming place for all. I am applying for the District 2 vacancy because my background and experience complement the wide range of skills that City Council already has, and would allow me to hit the ground running.

I joined the City Attorney's Office in 2017 to have a more direct impact on my community and to gain a deeper understanding of the nuts-and-bolts of municipal government. For the past 5 years, I have worked daily with the Office of Housing, helping to make unprecedented investments in rental and homeownership projects across the City.<sup>1</sup> I regularly advise on the Housing Levy, the Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program, the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program, OH's Housing Funding Policies, the Community Preference Policy and surplus property issues, to name a few. This background and experience would allow me to contribute to policy making these next 10 months, as City Council considers the Comprehensive Plan, related zoning changes, as well as potential future updates to MHA, reauthorization of MFTE, and Downtown Office-to-Residential tax incentive legislation.

But my experience at the CAO goes beyond just affordable housing. I have supported or interfaced with most major City Departments, including the Budget Office, SDCI, DEEL, Parks, FAS, HSD, OED, OIR, OPCD (including EDI), SCL, SDOT, Fire Department, SPU, the Mayor's Office, Councilmembers and Council Central Staff. I have assisted with large and small infrastructure projects, including redevelopment of the Waterfront, the Ship Canal Water Quality Project, the Northgate Pedestrian Bike Bridge, and the North Rainier Landbank Park.

Prior to joining the CAO, I worked as an attorney at Perkins Coie for 8 years, representing a diverse portfolio of clients including Puget Sound Energy, developers, property owners, large and small businesses, as well as school districts. Having worked closely with businesses, utilities, and developers helps me understand the challenges they face, including how to run a

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the views expressed herein and throughout the appointment process are my personal opinions and are not reflective of my employer or any clients.

business in a complex regulatory environment, and what cities can do to help foster a positive platform for economic stability and growth.

Earlier in my career, I was a legal secretary for 3 years at a labor-side law firm and then an intern during law school at the Washington Education Association. These experiences taught me the importance of collective action, being a bridge-builder, and listening to all sides during complex and often contentious negotiations. I believe this background of working with businesses and labor, combined with my time at the CAO, will help with crafting “win-win” legislation – i.e., policies and programs that meet the needs of our City and residents, support living-wage jobs, and foster a healthy business environment.

In addition to my legal experience, I am committed to the future of our public schools, which truly are the heart of our community. I am married to a life-long public educator, have been a Seattle Public Schools parent since 2009 (one son graduated and is attending UW and another is currently at Franklin) and an active supporter of our public schools.<sup>2</sup> City Council is not directly responsible for public education, but city planning and the issues affecting our City - whether around housing, transportation, or public safety - impact our students, families and public schools. Student homelessness in Seattle Public Schools increased 20% last year, after a 30% increase the prior year.<sup>3</sup> Amongst larger U.S. cities, we have the 2<sup>nd</sup> least children per capita,<sup>4</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> most students in private school,<sup>5</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> most millionaires per capita<sup>6</sup> – only trailing San Francisco in all three metrics.

These are not isolated statistics – we are increasingly becoming a city of haves and have-nots. And segregation in housing leads to segregation and concentrated poverty in schools, which are key drivers of educational inequalities. These issues need to be considered as we plan for future growth. Further, the City makes significant investments in our schools and youth through the FEPP levy and I would be excited to find ways to collaborate with Seattle Public Schools in terms of housing/enrollment planning, public safety and mental health resources for our youth.

Finally, I would also bring my lived-experience to this position. As the son of a Taiwanese immigrant, I understand what it feels like to be overlooked or seen as an outsider/foreigner because of my Asian ancestry and how biases and cultural barriers contribute to disenfranchisement of certain communities. I chose to put my roots down and raise a family in Seattle because of the wonderful diversity of our community, which needs to be celebrated and fiercely protected. I am concerned about the future of the Chinatown International District, which was recently named as one of the most endangered historic districts in the nation and which too often does not have the level of political influence as other neighborhoods. If

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<sup>2</sup> I’ve served as the Legislative Chair of the Seattle Council PTSA and as Advocacy Co-Chair for the Asa Mercer International School PTSA and have advocated for years for increased state funding for our public schools.

<sup>3</sup> [KUOW - A troubling trend. Seattle reports another 20% increase in homeless students](#)

<sup>4</sup> [The U.S. Cities With the Most \(and Fewest\) Children | AAA State of Play](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Seattle private school enrollment spikes, ranks No. 2 among big cities | The Seattle Times](#)

<sup>6</sup> [In Seattle, it’s the millionaires next door — 54,200 of them | The Seattle Times](#)

appointed, I would work tirelessly to uplift the many diverse voices of District 2, including the CID, to ensure they are all well represented.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be glad to provide additional information or to discuss any of the above at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Edward (Eddie) Lin

# Edward Chia Lin



## Legal Experience

**Seattle City Attorney's Office**, Seattle, WA

September 2017 – Present

*Assistant City Attorney, Contracts and Utilities Division.*

Advise Office of Housing on affordable housing loans and contracts, 2023 Housing Levy, Housing Funding Policies, regulatory oversight of MHA and MFTE, and surplus property matters. Previously advised various City Departments on both transaction and litigation matters. Major projects included the Waterfront project (SDOT), Northgate Pedestrian Bike/Ped Bridge (SDOT), Ship Canal Water Quality Project (SPU), defending a Parks lease in litigation, and advising the Human Services Department and the Department of Education and Early Learning in various capital facilities funding agreements.

**Perkins Coie, LLP**, Bellevue, WA

January 2010 – August 2017

*Counsel, Real Estate & Land Use and Energy, Environment & Natural Resource Groups.*

Represent and advise property owners, developers, lenders, utilities, and school districts in real property, land use, contract, condemnation, energy, and boundary dispute matters, including transactional, pre-litigation, and litigation matters.

**U.S. District Court, Judge Thomas S. Zilly**, Seattle, WA

August 2008 – December 2008

*Law Student Extern.* Researched and analyzed motion briefs and prepared draft orders.

**Washington Education Association**, Federal Way, WA

February 2007 – August 2007

*Law Clerk.* Drafted model collective bargaining language for local unions to use in negotiating indoor environmental quality issues; researched and analyzed local union legal questions.

**Altshuler Berzon LLP**, San Francisco, CA

July 2003 – June 2006

*Legal Assistant.* Supported partner and two associates at labor union-side/public-interest law firm.

**Rankin, Sprout, Mires, Beaty & Reynolds**, Oakland, CA

October 2001 – June 2003

*Legal Assistant.* Assisted four attorneys at medical malpractice insurance-defense firm.

## Education

**Seattle University School of Law**, Seattle, WA

May 2009

J.D., Graduated *summa cum laude*

Research and Technical Editor, Seattle University Law Review

**Macalester College**, St. Paul, MN

June 2000

B.A., East Asian Studies, Minor in Biology

## Personal and Professional Activities

Asian Bar Association of Washington, Member

2008 – 2019

Seattle Council PTSA Legislative Chair

2019 – 2020

Mercer Middle School PTSA Advocacy Co-Chair

2021 – 2022

37<sup>th</sup> Democrats PCO

2024





# City of Seattle

## FINANCIAL INTEREST STATEMENT AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION

### CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

All City of Seattle officials and employees are subject to the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), Chapter 4.16, (the "Ethics Code"). The purpose of the Ethics Code is to ensure that no public office is used for personal gain; and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. An individual with certain financial interests may be prohibited from participating in City business, as specified in the Ethics Code. Please click [HERE](#) to see SMC 4.16.070, a list of prohibited conduct.

The City Council is interested in knowing whether you have any financial interests that could be an issue with your service on the Council. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Answering "Yes" does not necessarily disqualify you from consideration:

1. Do you, or any member of your family, **receive compensation** from any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☐ No ☒ Yes, please complete item 1 on page 2.
2. Do you, or any member of your family, have a **direct financial interest** in any person or entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government in the past five years? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 2 on page 2.
3. Have you, or any member of your family, served in the past five years as an officer, director, trustee, or employee of an entity that engaged in any transactions or activities with Seattle City government? ☐ No ☒ Yes, please complete item 3 on page 2.
4. After referencing SMC 4.16.070, do you have any other relationships, employment history or financial interests that you feel could be an issue with your service on the Council under the Ethics Code? ☒ No ☐ Yes, please complete item 4 on page 3.

In order to be eligible for appointment to Council Position 2, you must be a resident of District 2 for at least 120 days (City Charter Article IV, Sec. 2; Article XIX). Please confirm your eligibility by clearly printing your current residential address and affirming the length of your residency at that address:

Street Address: [REDACTED]  
Zip Code: [REDACTED]  
Resident at this address since: Aug. 2014

Name of Candidate (as registered with King County Elections): Edward Chia Lin

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the information provided on this page and on page 2 and on all attached sheets is true and correct and that I have made reasonable inquiry to determine the truth, accuracy, and completeness of my responses.

Signature: [Signature]

Signed at Seattle, Washington

(City or other location must be filled in.)

Date: 1/6/2025

Note: If you are appointed to the City Council, you will be required to complete a "Personal Financial Affairs Statement" on a form provided by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC). You can see SEEC Form F1 by clicking [HERE](#).

1. Please provide the name and address of each person or entity for which you answered Yes on page 1

Name:

Jennifer Matter

Address:



2. Please provide the name and address of each entity for which you answered Yes on page 1.

Name:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

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3. Please indicate (i) the name of the person holding the position (you or an immediate family member); (ii) the title of the office, directorship, trusteeship or employment held; and (iii) the name and address of the entity.

Person holding the position:

Jennifer Matter (spouse)

Position held with entity:

Teacher

Entity name:

Seattle Public Schools

Entity address:



4. Please describe the relationships, employment history or financial interests for which you answered YES on page 1.