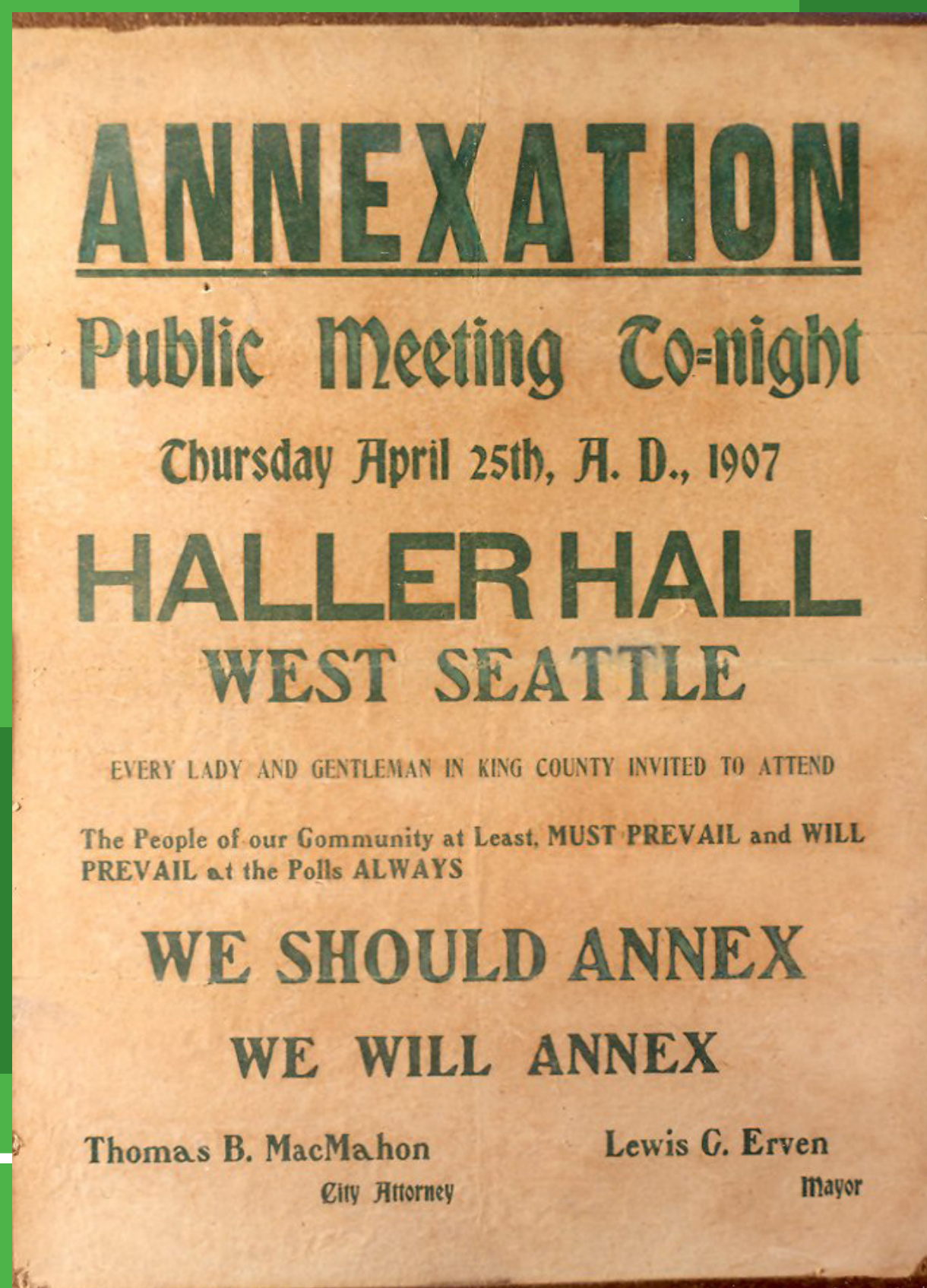


BETWEEN THE LINES BETWEEN THE LINES

THE POWER AND PARALLELS OF THE WEST SEATTLE ANNEXATION



In the early 1900s, city leaders wanted to establish Seattle as the jewel of the Pacific Northwest. The slogan “Greater Seattle” represented their belief that the town could become a major US city by annexing neighboring towns and lands.

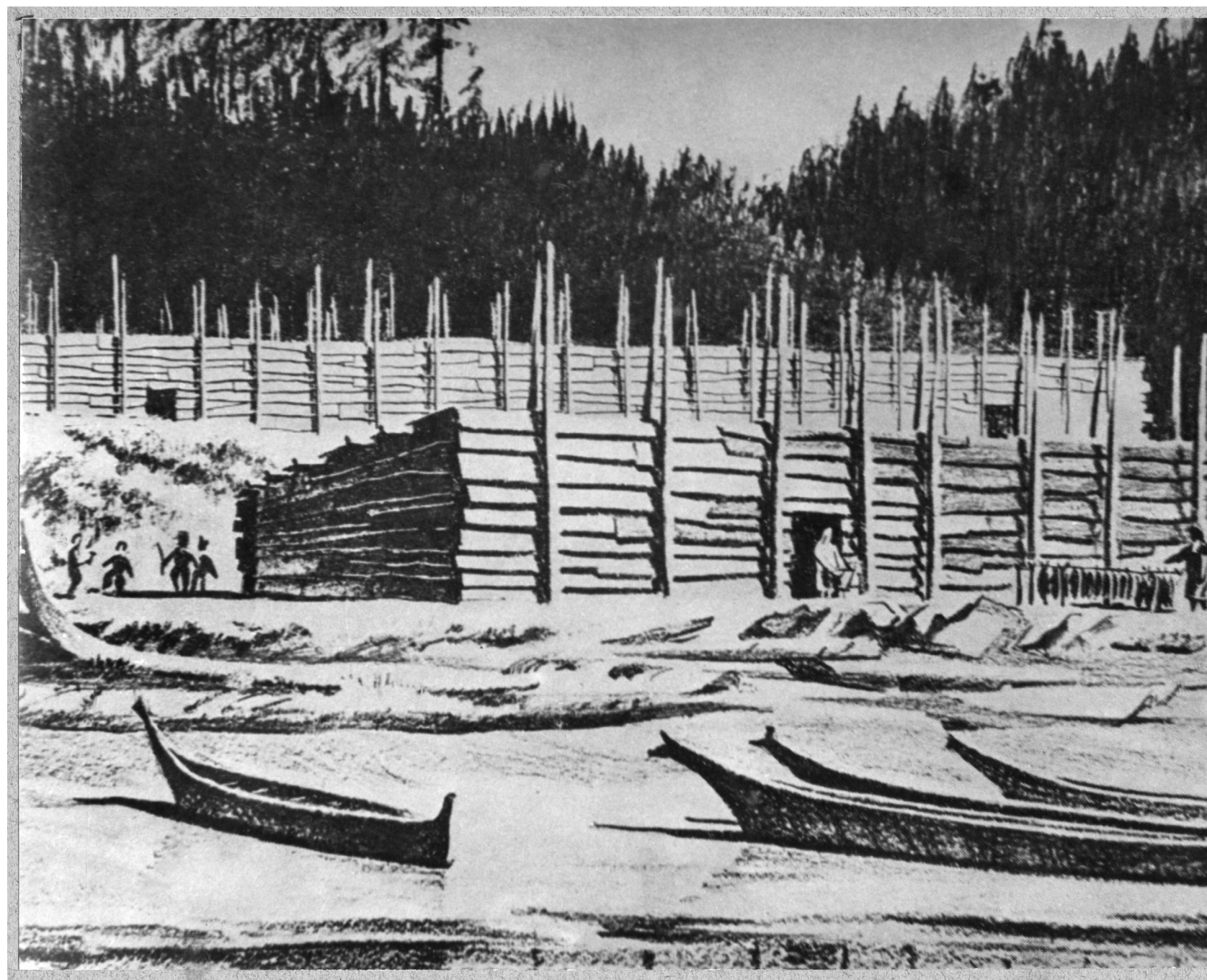
To the west, the Duwamish Peninsula’s population was rapidly growing. The city of West Seattle incorporated in 1902 to meet demands for local city services such as an expanded school district and improved transportation. Some residents saw joining Seattle as a way to further increase public services and first considered joining Seattle in 1903. Other residents preferred to stay independent and feared an increase in taxes. Special interest groups on either side used their power and influenced the path to annexation.

The 1907 annexation of West Seattle to Seattle still impacts residents today. Lines drawn by the annexation mean that the Duwamish Peninsula is divided into jurisdictions run by King County and Seattle. Much like the residents in West Seattle over a hundred years ago, the residents of White Center debate whether to join a city like Seattle or to remain independent.

In a democratic society, voters have the power to shape their communities. Yet, the playing field is not always even. The debates surrounding the 1907 annexation show how individuals, special interest groups, and corporations all influenced public policy.

The First Government

The dx^wdəwʔabš (Duwamish) people established the Duwamish Peninsula's first governing system long before European-American immigrants arrived at Alki Point in 1851. In 1855, the U.S. government and Coast Salish leaders signed the Treaty of Point Elliott, which guaranteed Native people hunting and fishing rights as well as reservations in exchange for 54,000 acres of land.



MOHAI, SHS2892 Indian House on Puget Sound

After the U.S. government received the land, they refused to honor the treaty with the dx^wdəwʔabš. European-Americans petitioned the government to deny the dx^wdəwʔabš a reservation, and later burned down their longhouses. These actions forced out the dx^wdəwʔabš governing system.

Many Native people did not receive full voting rights or recognition as citizens of the United States until 1965 with the passage of the Voting Rights Act. US Laws blocked the dx^wdəwʔabš from being able to advocate for a community that benefited them, by refusing to recognize them as a sovereign tribe or allowing them to vote.

The dx^wdəwʔabš are still fighting for government recognition as a sovereign tribe with the right to self-govern. To reclaim their story, they have built a Longhouse and Cultural Center which promotes “the social, cultural, and economic survival” of their people.

In acknowledgement that the Log House Museum is on dx^wdəwʔabš land, our visitors can stand in solidarity through Real Rent. Through paying the dx^wdəwʔabš for their “land, resources, and livelihoods,” we can support justice for this land's indigenous people. All funds go directly to Duwamish Tribal Services to support the revival of Duwamish culture and the vitality of the Duwamish Tribe.



www.realrentduwamish.org

A Greater Seattle

In order to achieve the idea of a Greater Seattle, the city needed to expand. Leaders pushed a campaign to annex and consolidate neighboring land.

Annex: To add territory to one's own territory

Incorporate: Make a community a legal city

Consolidate: Combine communities into a single city

When West Seattle incorporated, residents benefited from city services. The surrounding communities of Alki, Spring Hill Villa, and others were excluded. Some people living outside of the city preferred their independence and lower taxes over city benefits. Others saw the advantages of a water and sewer system, paved roads, street railways, utilities, police and fire departments, garbage service, and local school districts.

ANNEXATION?

Why West Seattle Should
Become Absorbed
by Seattle

WILL SURELY COME

SWSHS: 2003.20.28. West Seattle News, West Seattle, WA-
Page 1, May 15, 1903

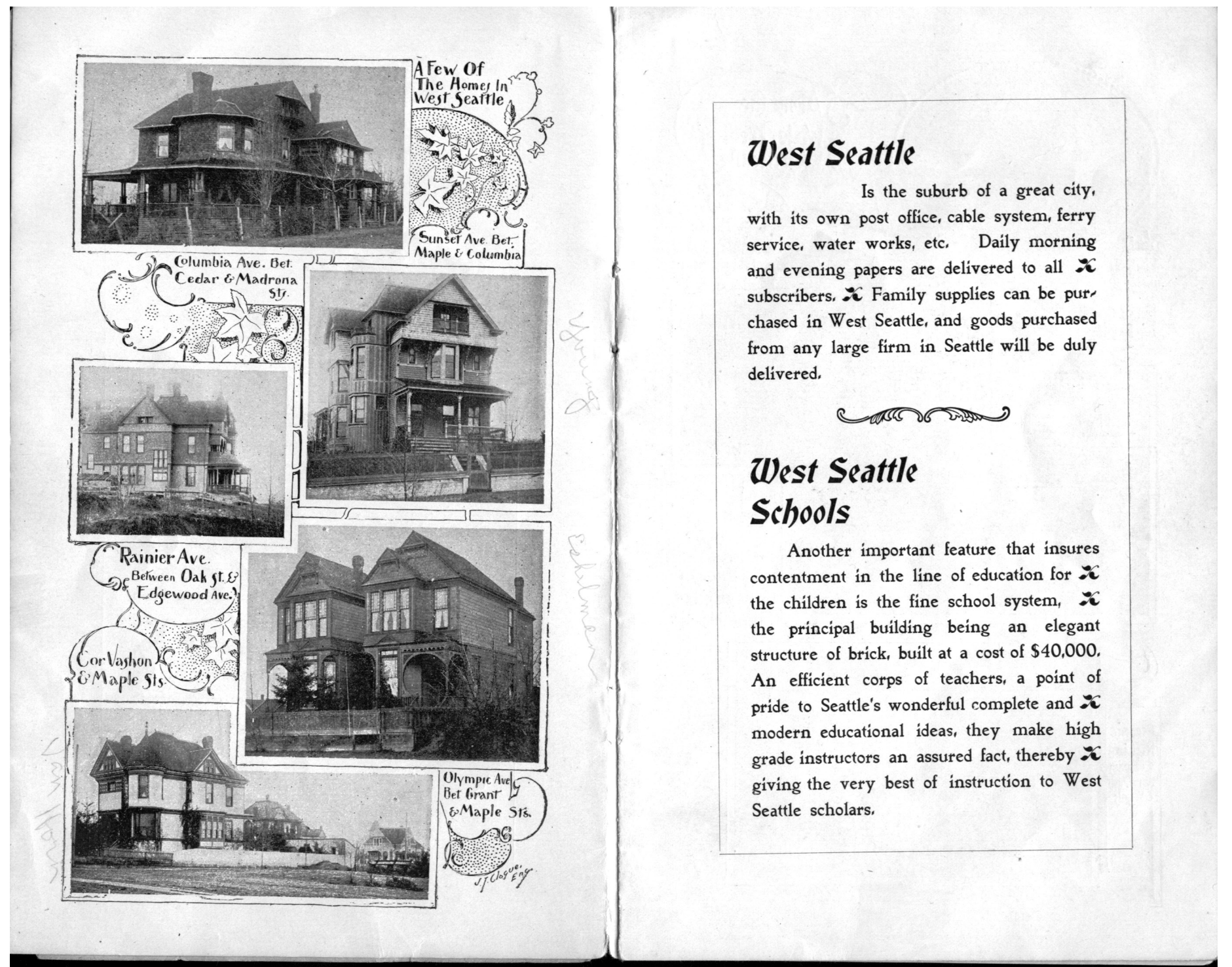
If West Seattle joined Seattle, they could get more public services at a lower cost. However, In order to join Seattle, they needed first to annex surrounding land to connect their borders.

Annexation means "Greater Seattle!"

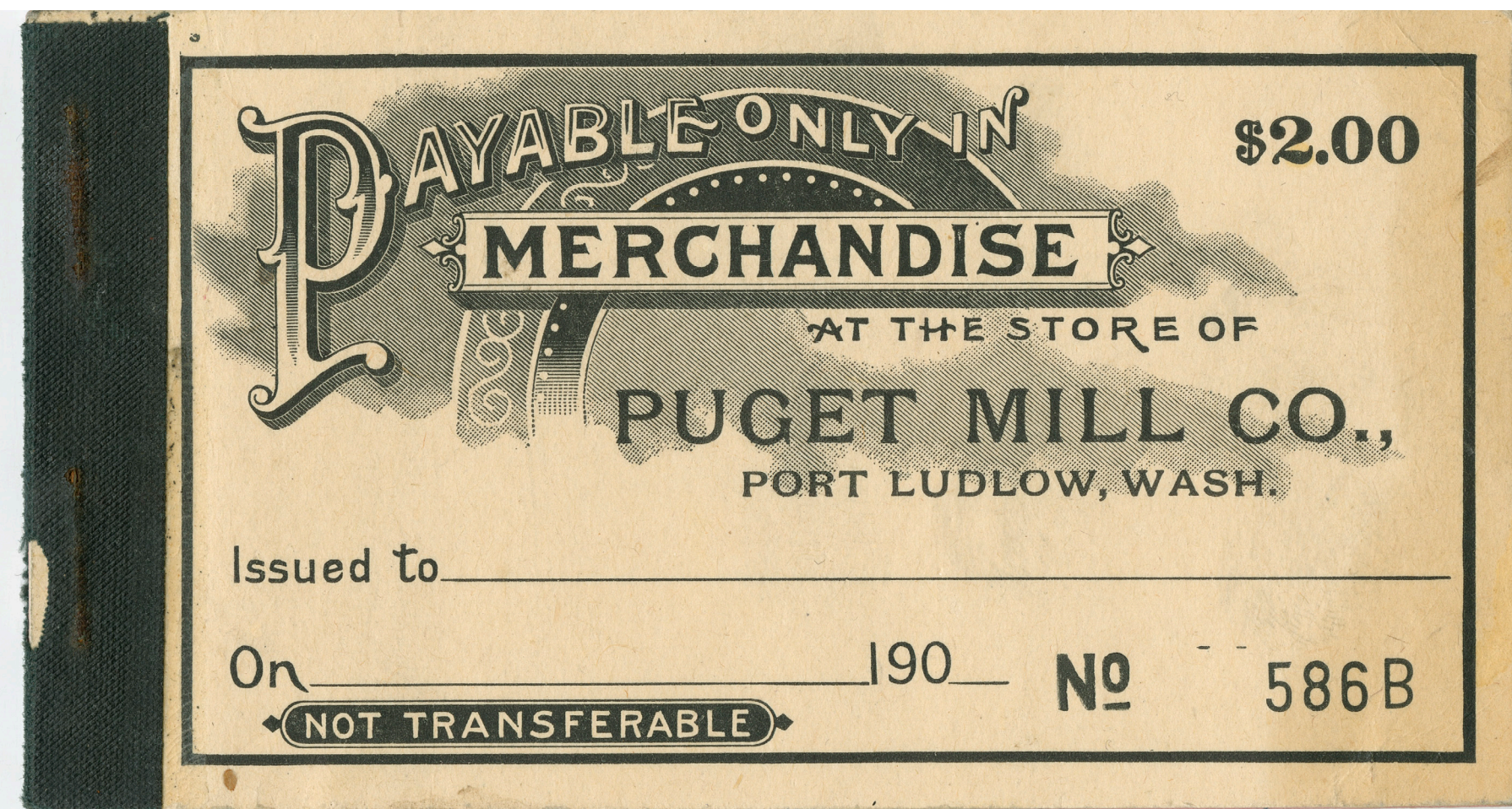
Seattle Sunday Times, Seattle, WA, July 30, 1905, page 6.

Corporate Interests

Many business and industry interests promoted the idea of "Greater Seattle." Real estate businessmen knew city services attracted home buyers. Other businesses, such as the Seattle Steel Mill and the Puget Mill Company, opposed annexation in fear of higher taxes. These companies used their social and financial power to sway annexation attempts in their favor.



SWSHS 01-22 West Seattle Washington promo flyer Sturtevant and Co., West Seattle Schools



MOHAI 2019.3.75 Puget Mill Coupon Book



MOHAI Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, 2000.107.141.24.01 Portrait of William Pigott from 1905



MOAHI 1969.4653.12 Amos Brown with City Officials

Transportation

SWSHS 1992.2.39 Streetcar at Alki and 63rd Ave



Peninsula residents wanted a streetcar to travel to the ferry. West Seattle granted Jacob Furth, president of the Seattle Electric Company, a contract to build this streetcar. When Furth failed to build the railway, West Seattle revoked his contract. The city created their own railway, but it operated at a financial loss. Annexation could raise revenue by extending the railway service area to bring in more passengers. Furth wanted the city-operated streetcar to fail, and he used his political and financial power to fight annexation.

Seattle Municipal Archives:
Letter in Protest of Seattle Electric franchise

1. We object to the adoption of the ordinance granting to the Seattle Electric Company a franchise on California Avenue principally because it is opposed by the majority of the Citizens of West Seattle, in its present form, but especially because it does not contemplate a straight sale of our Municipal Railroad for \$30,000, cash, on delivery of the deed, as understood by our citizens when they voted to sell the same, and because

It does not provide for transfers both ways within the present limits of Seattle and West Seattle,

It does not grant half fare to children going to and returning from school.

It does not provide for the immediate and continuous operation of our present Municipal Railroad when purchased by Seattle Electric Company.

It does not provide for the submission to arbitration of all labor disputes.

It does not provide for transfers with the present Ferry Company or with any other Ferry Company.

It does not provide for a sufficient number of cars to be operated between West Seattle and Seattle.

It does not provide for taking up the spur on Whittelsey Street, restoring the street to grade and removing the barn now standing on said street, if so ordered by our City Council.

It does not provide for furnishing free to our City all the electric lights now in use on California and other streets along our railway line, or their equivalent as may be directed by our City Council.

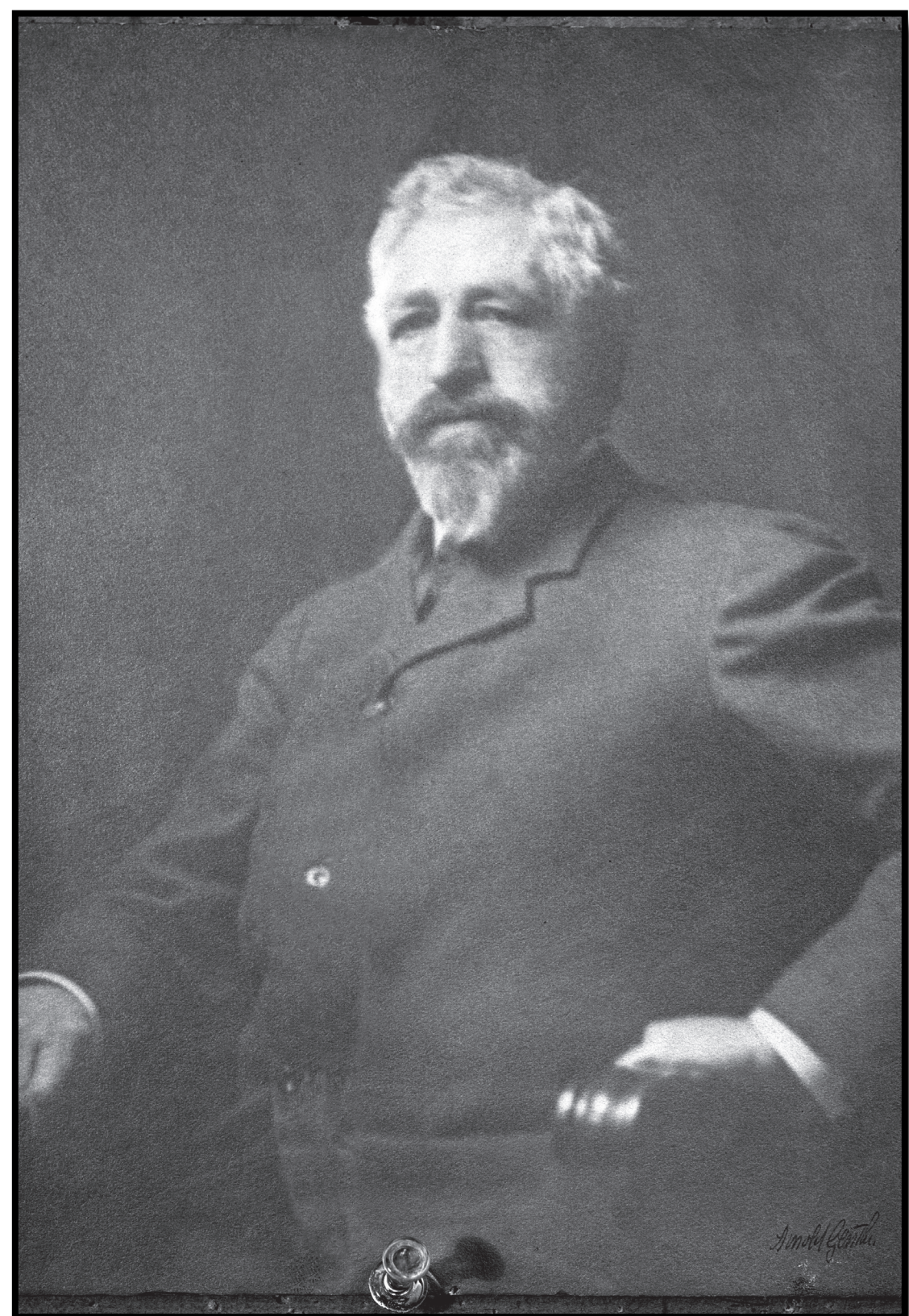
We also take notice of the meeting held by our Citizens on December 22nd and the amendments which were proposed and adopted by unanimous vote and directed to be submitted to this Council and, in our opinion, the said amendments should be given careful and conscientious consideration.

There is no need for haste in these matters and we are certain the people of West Seattle would be better satisfied if all the franchises now before us were submitted to and considered by our newly elected Council.

Howard R. Stickels
James Cunningham

FILED
DEC 21 1906

MOHAI, PEMCO Webster & Stevens Collection,
1983.10.11027 Portrait of Jacob Furth



Seattle Municipal Archives:
Message regarding franchise to
Seattle Electric Company

TOWN OF WEST SEATTLE
TOWN COUNCIL
(Report 3)

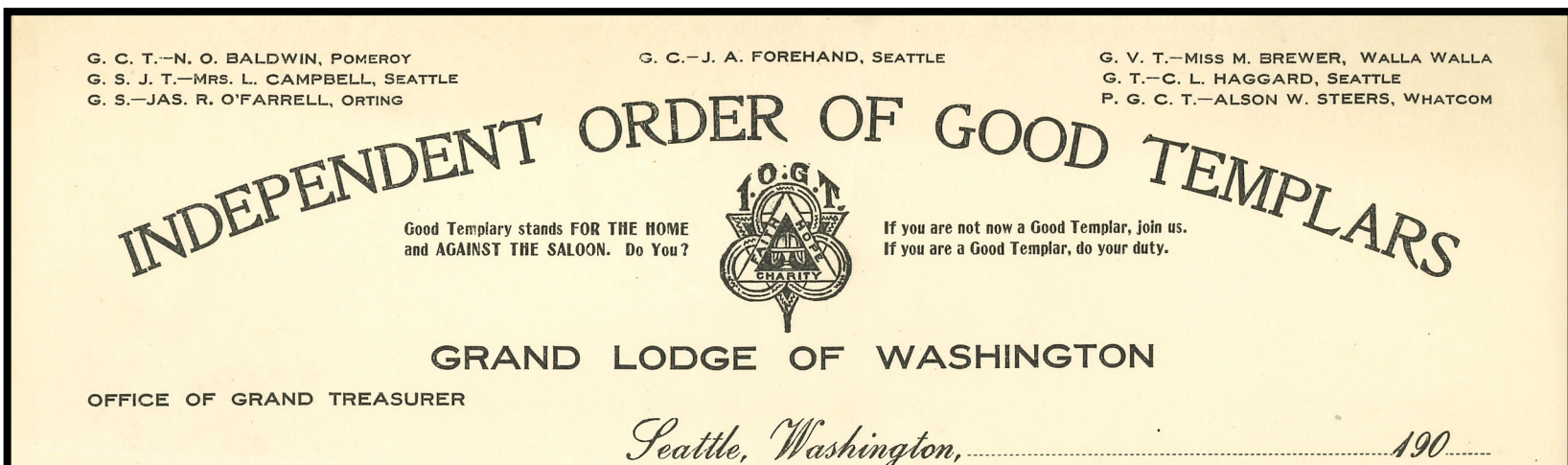
MR. MAYOR:
Your Committee ~~of~~ of the whole Council
to whom was referred the Seattle Electric Co franchise
respectfully report ~~as follows~~ as follows
That the franchise be not granted until the question of
selling the Municipal Line and Power Plant be submitted to a vote
of the people of West Seattle. And that in case the people decide to
keep the carline, that the franchises asked for be refused. Also
in case the vote decides in favor selling, that the price asked for
be paid before the franchises are granted. Also that before the
franchises are granted the Seattle Electric Co obtain the necessary
franchises from the City of Seattle and the County of King.

Saloons



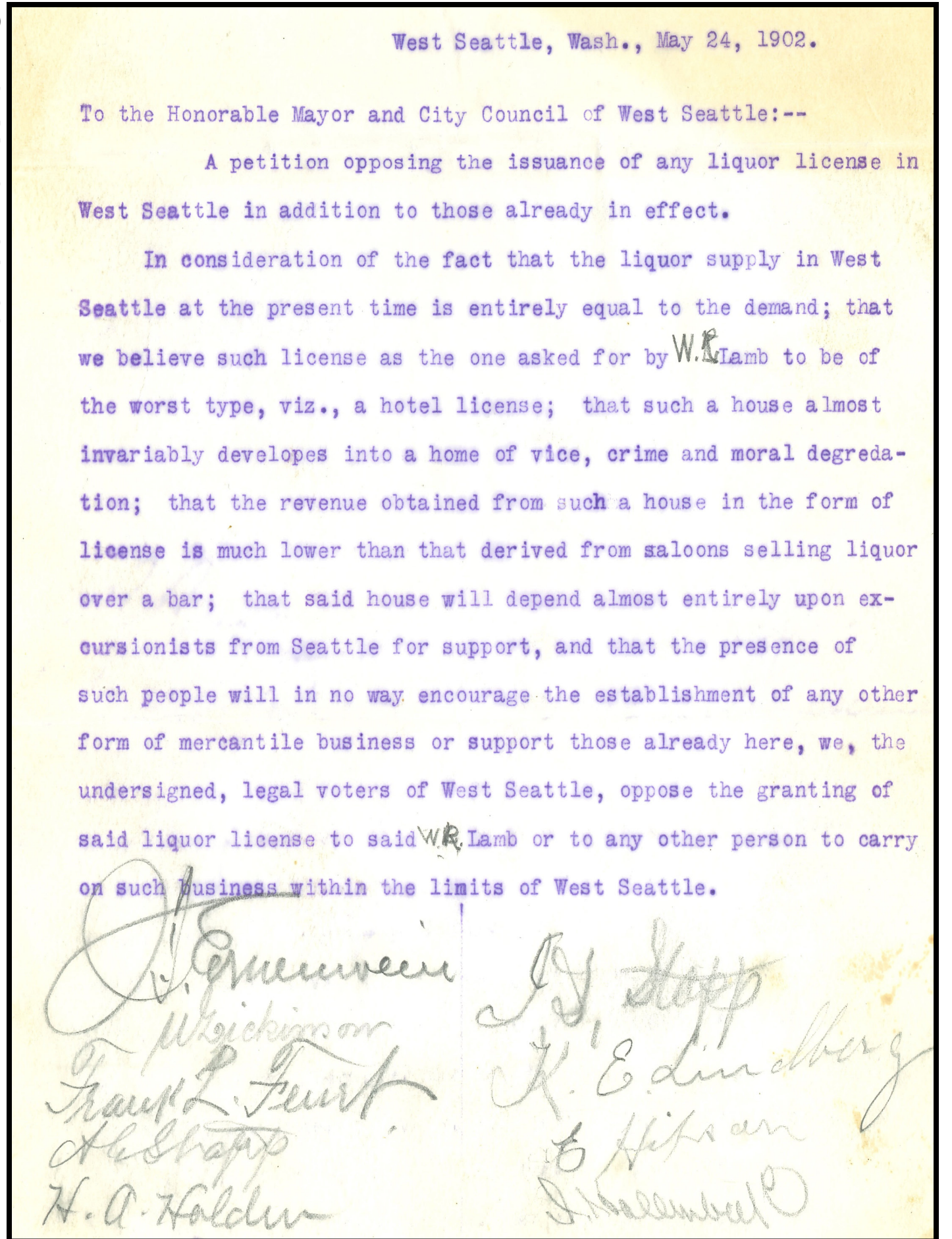
SWSHS 1992.002.0062 The Stockade Hotel

Anti-saloon advocates feared that saloons would spread vice in the community. As city councils had control over liquor licenses, anti-saloon advocates were at different times for or against annexation, depending on the political views of the city councilors. There was also a “one mile exclusion rule” which stated that businesses within one mile outside of a city’s limits could not have a liquor license.

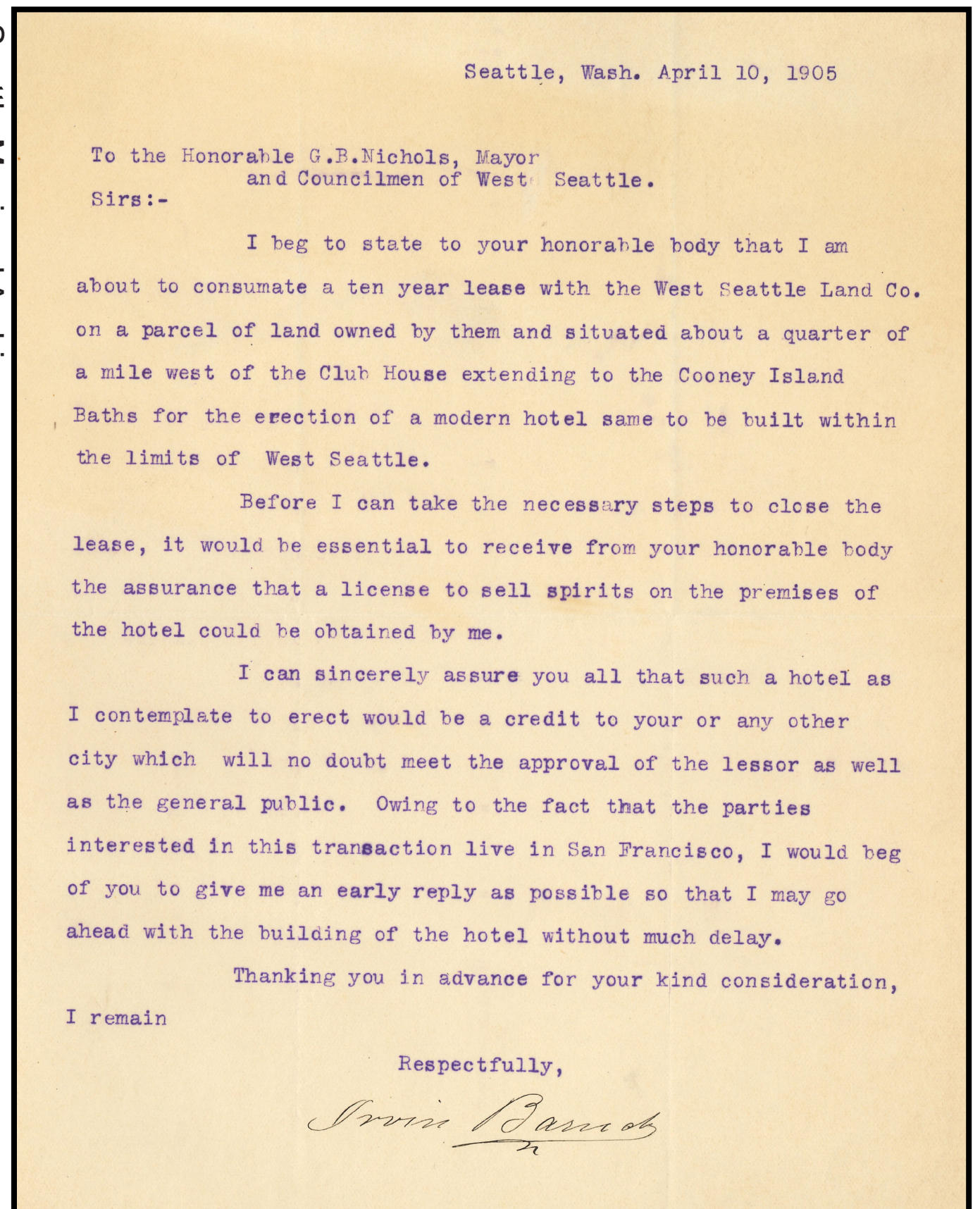


Seattle Municipal Archives: 1903 letter “for the home and against the saloon”

Seattle Municipal Archives:
 Letter protesting liquor licensing to Saloons



Seattle Municipal Archives:
 1905 letter to mayor requesting liquor license



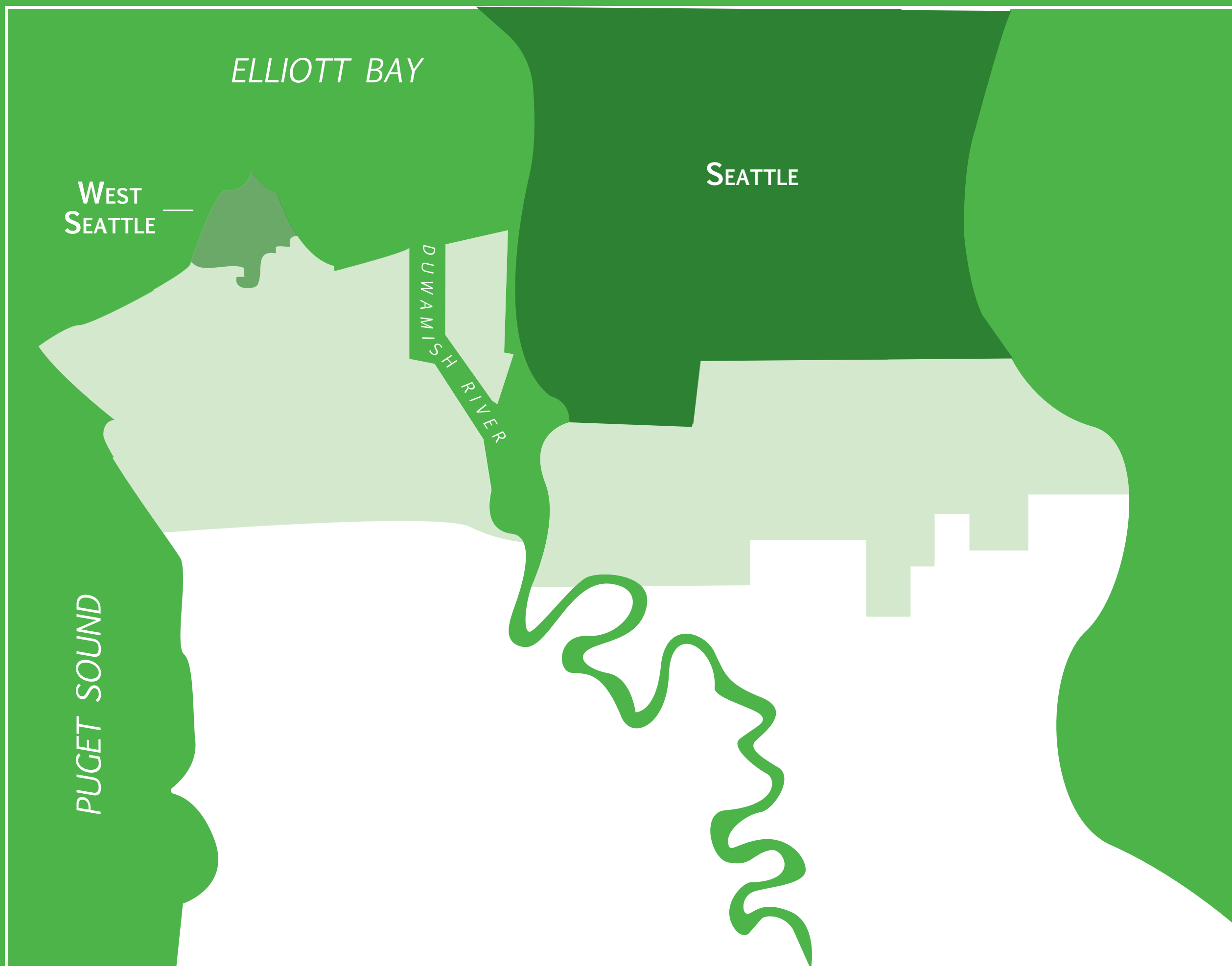
March 1904

PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF WEST SEATTLE

Election Failed

Seattle: 12,878 - 2,961

Annex Area: 131 - 176

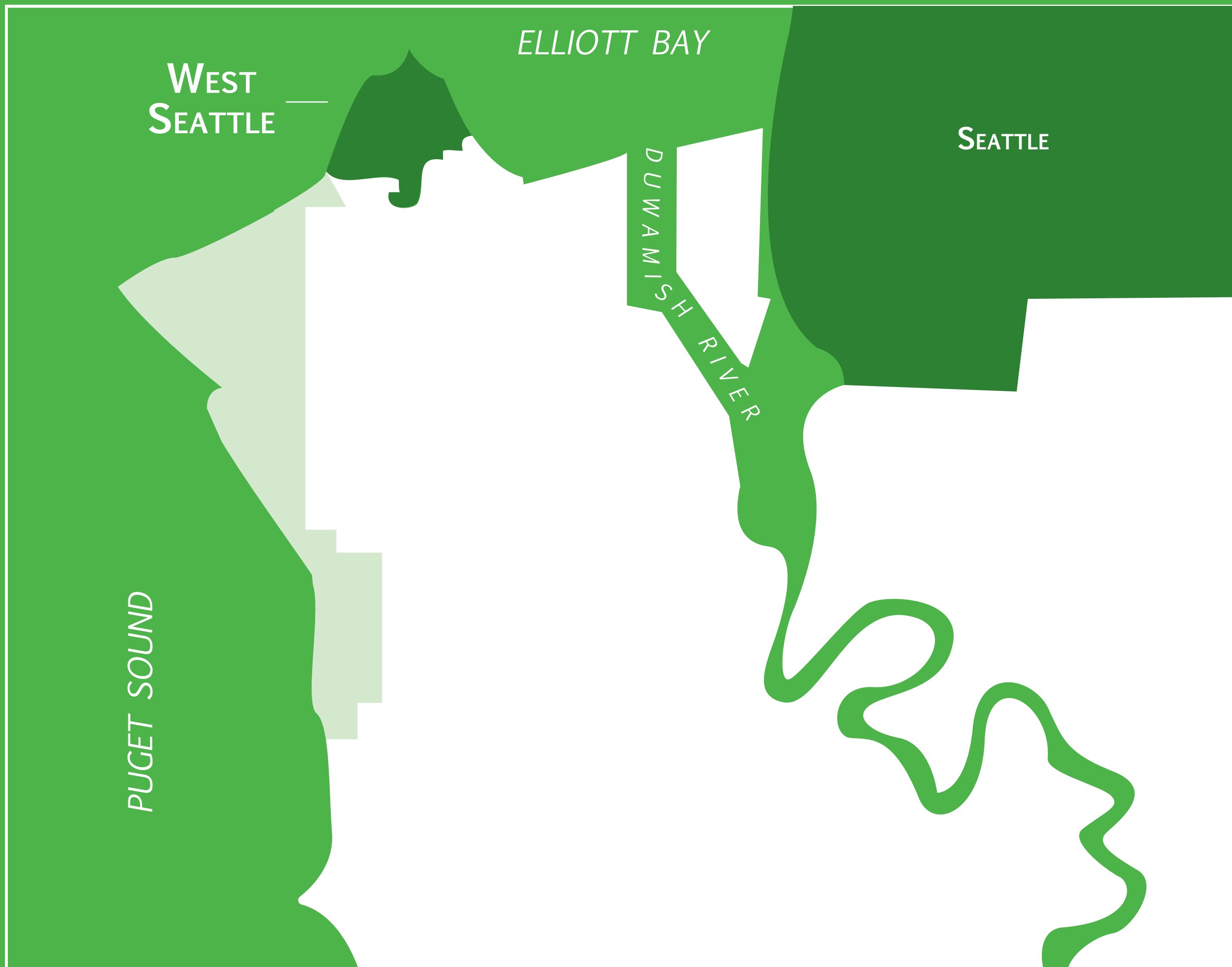


People in favor of annexation submitted a petition to add the South Suburban Strip to Seattle. The referendum election failed. People who lived in the area most likely wanted to keep their land under local control.

August 1904

PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF ALKI POINT

Election Withdrawn



Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, WA, June 27, 1904, Page 3, Column 1.

TO INCORPORATE ALKI POINT

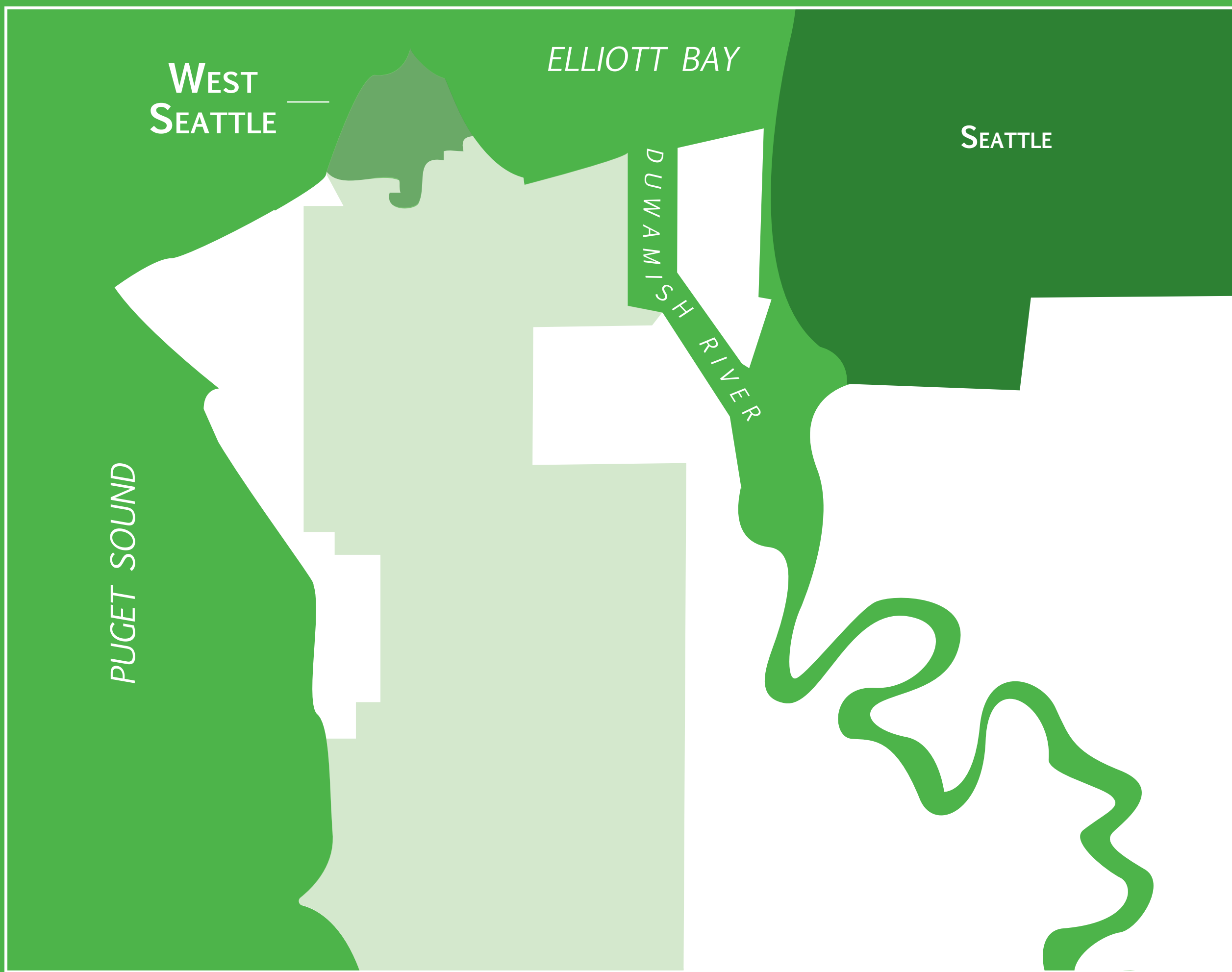
Plan Said to Be Fathered by
a Local Brewery for a
Beer Garden.

In order to keep saloons out, anti-saloon advocates in Alki petitioned to form their own city. This would allow the Alki city council to deny liquor licenses. At the same time, others filed an annexation petition that excluded Alki Point. Alki citizens withdrew their incorporation petition in hopes that the annexation petition would succeed which would mean that the one mile exclusion zone would prevent liquor licensing.

September 1904

PROPOSED CITY OF WEST SEATTLE ANNEXATION AREA

Election Not Counted
Results Unknown



Annexation proponents petitioned to annex part of the Duwamish Peninsula to West Seattle. The petition excluded Youngstown to eliminate opposition from saloon owners and the Seattle Steel Mill. With this petition, Youngstown could keep local control over liquor licensing and taxes. However, West Seattle would still be separated from Seattle, preventing annexation.

What is Gerrymandering?

To achieve (a result) by manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency.

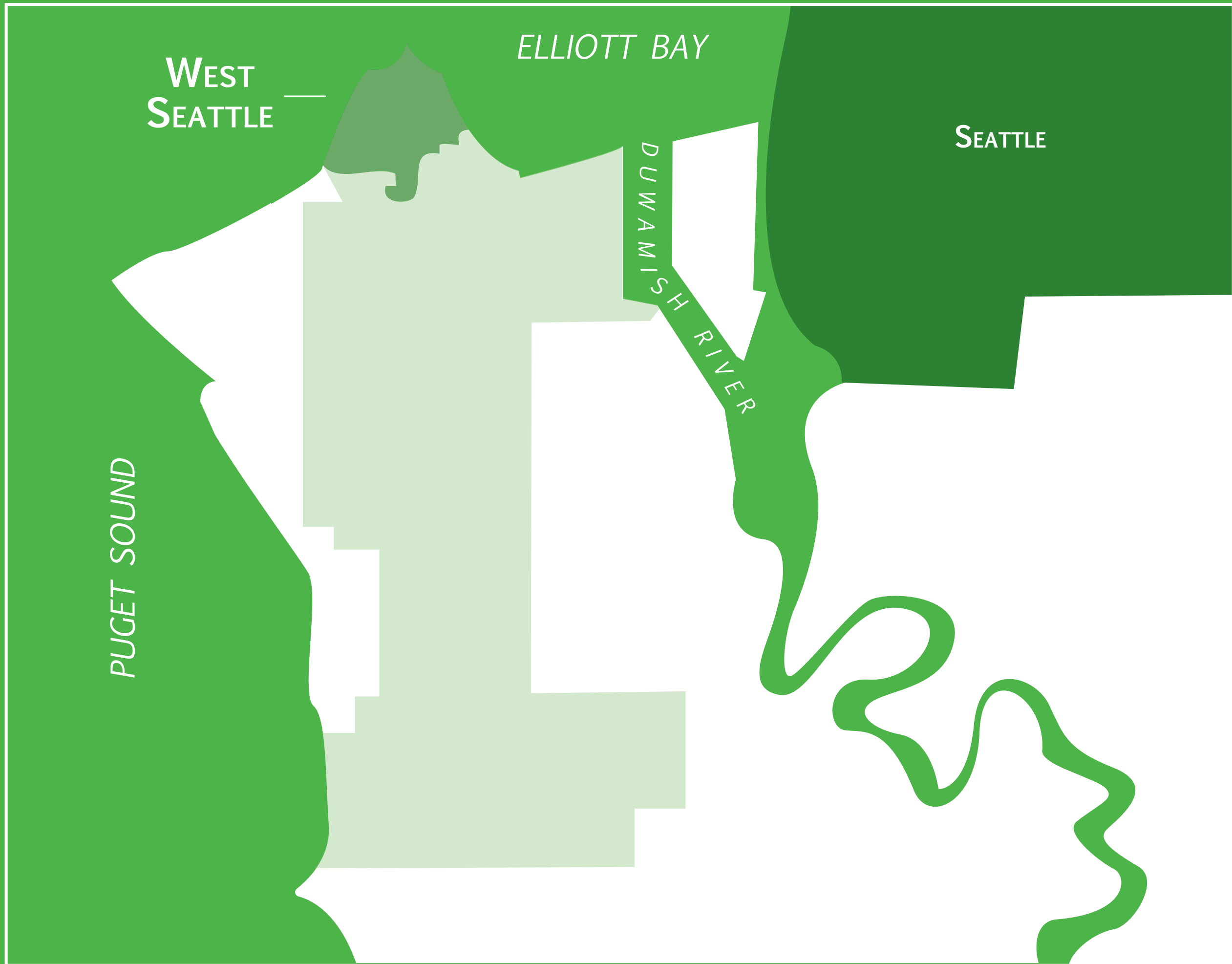
The Puget Mill Company and the West Seattle Land and Improvement Company opposed the petition since it would annex their land. They hired a lawyer to discredit the election. The court agreed to a settlement and the votes were never counted. There is no record of any opportunity for the residents of the area to be annexed to object to this settlement.

— March and April 1905 —

PROPOSED CITY OF WEST SEATTLE ANNEXATION AREA

Election Failed
West Seattle: Approved
Annex Area: 4-4

Election Null & Void
West Seattle 48-6
Annexation area: 13-10



Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, WA, February 9, 1905, page 4.

RESIDENTS WIN PROTEST

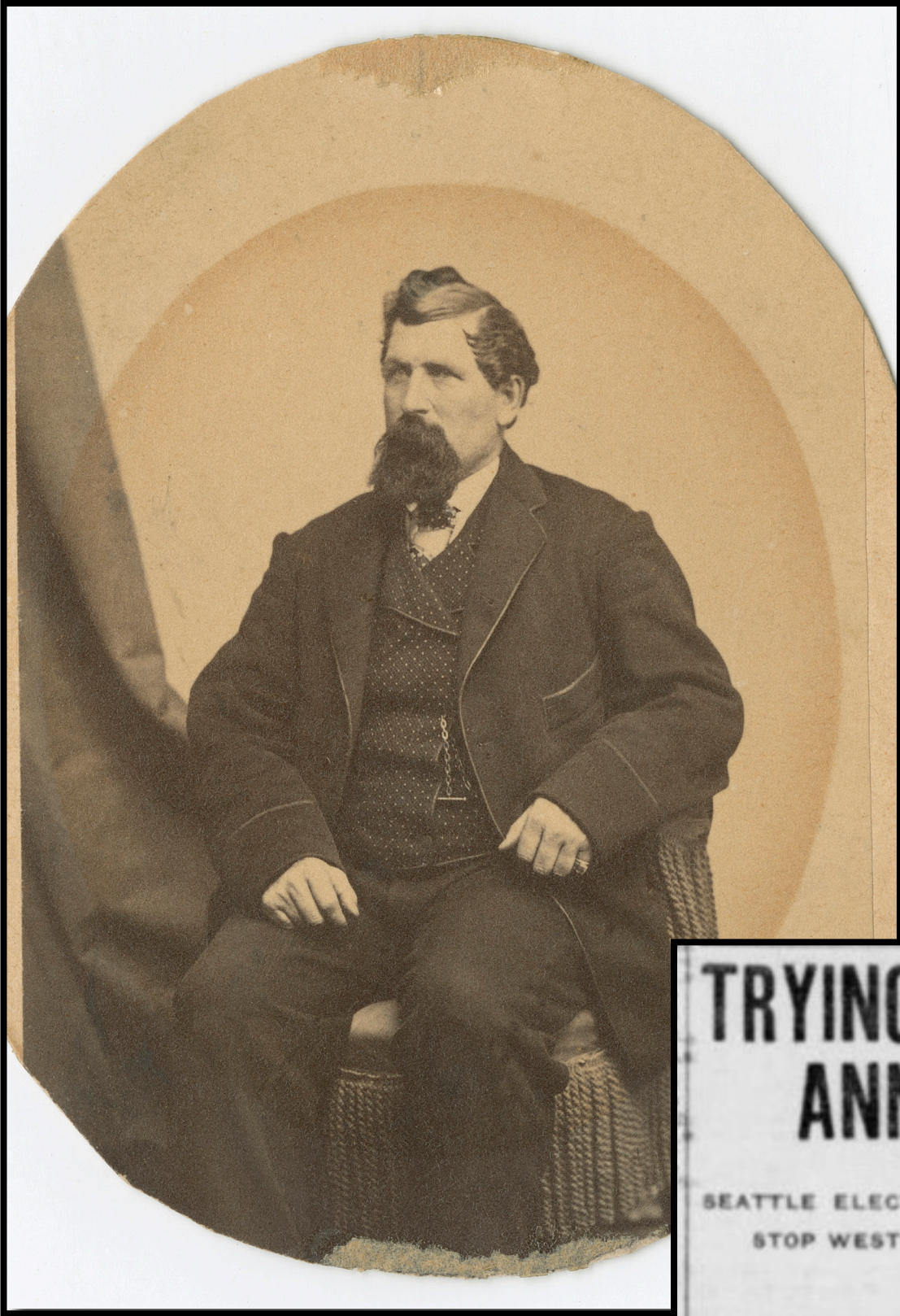
**Alki Point People Do Not Wish to Be
Annexed to West
Seattle.**

Annexation proponents submitted a new petition which excluded areas that would oppose annexation. The petition tried to please many groups, but fell short of its goal to achieve adjacency to Seattle. The vote was a tie and the petition failed.

Why was Adjacency Important?

Adjacency is when lands share a border and are next to each other. Having adjacency was important to West Seattle because Seattle could only annex adjacent land.

April 1905



MOHAI 1966.3915.10b
Portrait of Amos Brown

Annexation proponents submitted a petition which included the same lands as the March 1905 petition. The Amos Brown Estate attempted to halt the election by filing a complaint with the King County Superior Court. They claimed West Seattle did not have a large enough population to annex more land. Judge Yakey issued an order cancelling the election.

TRYING TO PREVENT ANNEXATION ELECTION

SEATTLE ELECTRIC COMPANY SAID TO BE BEHIND MOVE TO
STOP WEST SEATTLE ELECTRIC CAR EXTENSION

In order to prevent West Seattle from extending its carline through territory which the Seattle Electric company contemplates serving exclusively, whenever it gets ready, the octopus, working through the Amos Brown estate, it is said, is trying to prevent by injunction a special election that is being held today to annex the required territory.

In spite of the injunction, however, West Seattle is going ahead with its election, and it is believed that the anti-corporation faction will win out by at least three votes.

The attempt to prevent the election is simply a bluff, according to Herbert N. DeWolf, city attorney of West Seattle.

It can never be made permanent, he declares. No law in the United States can prevent a city of the third class from holding a special election when it desires, and the only object in getting out the injunction, in Mr. DeWolf's opinion, is to discourage citizens from going to the polls.

The injunction was asked for on the grounds that West Seattle was seeking to annex outside territory that does not want to come into the city and which, from its isolated location, would derive no benefit from the annexation, the alleged object being to increase the city's tax gathering capacity so that it could expand its limit of indebtedness. Other irregularities are charged, it being claimed, for instance, that West Seattle padded its population census in order to become, under the state law, a city of the third class. The West Seattle citizens label these allegations as tommyrot, alleging that the only reason that the Amos Brown estate is protesting against having its property annexed is that it is backed by Seattle's owned-in-Boston street car monopoly.

West Seattle's municipal car system, constructed under trying financial embarrassments, has proved to be so successful that its owners desire to extend it through the only natural route to Lincoln beach, south of Alki point. The Seattle Electric company wants to run its carline from Seattle over the same route. It has already asked for a franchise from the county through private persons.

Seattle Star, Seattle, WA. April 22, 1905, page 7.

Seattle Municipal Archives:
Brief on Brown vs. City of West Seattle

What is a third class city?

Cities are categorized by their size. A third class city had between 1500 and 10,000 people.

The Supreme Court of the State of Washington

STATE of AMOS BROWN, Inc.,
corporation,

Plaintiff-Respondent,

vs.

CITY of WEST SEATTLE, G. B. NICOLL, W. G. DICKINSON, L. W. NELSON, JAMES CUNNINGHAM, HOWARD HOGG, L. W. DAVIS, ARTHUR STRETCH, D. R. ADAMS and A. M. ALLERTON,

Defendants;

G. B. NICOLL, W. G. DICKINSON, JAMES CUNNINGHAM, HOWARD HOGG, L. W. DAVIS, ARTHUR STRETCH, A. M. ALLERTON and HERBERT N. De Wolfe,

Appellants.

Appeal from the Superior Court of King County
HON. JOHN B. YAKEY, Judge

BRIEF OF RESPONDENT

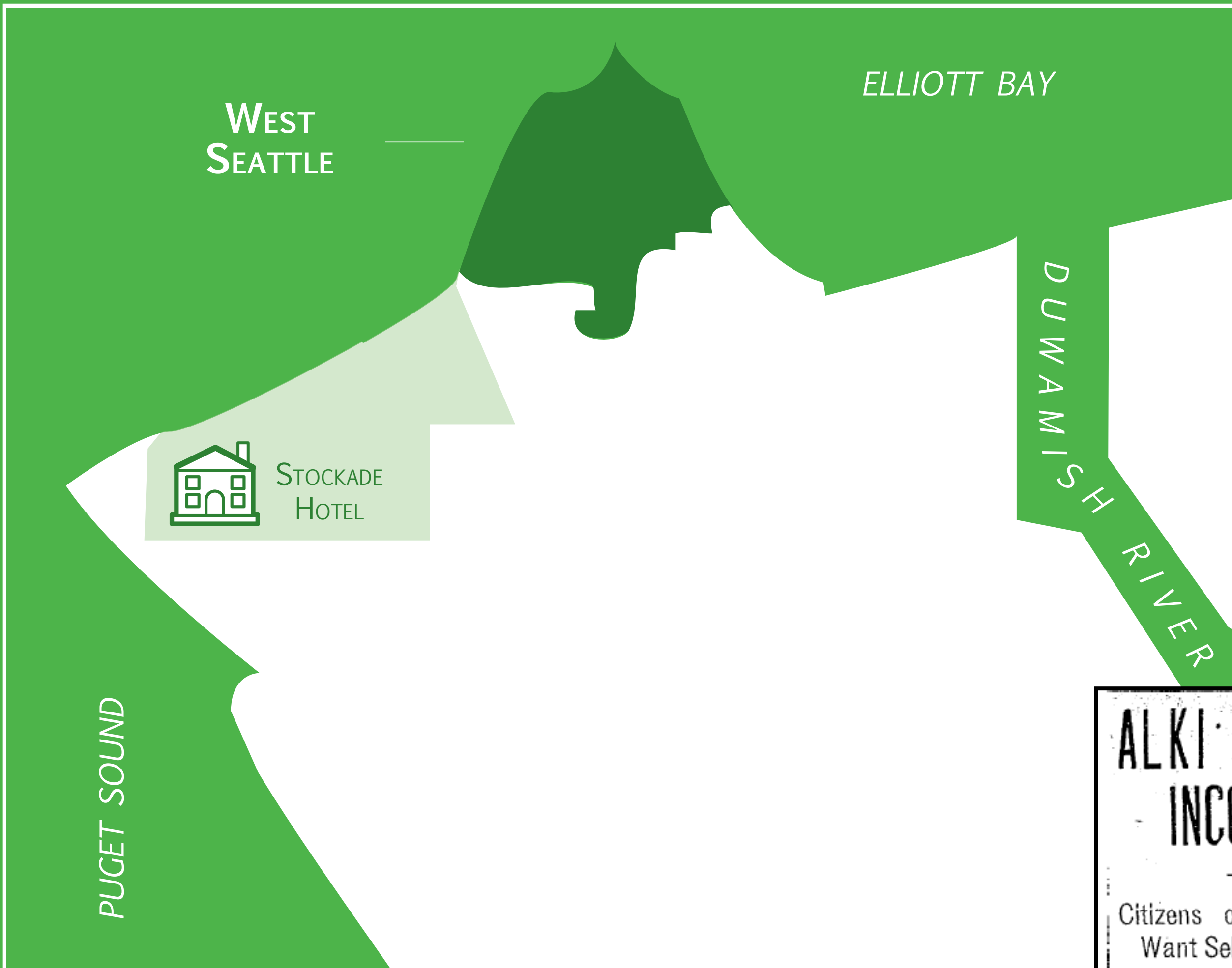
McCAFFERTY & BELL,
Attorneys for Respondent.

Seattle, Wash.

February 1906

PROPOSED ALKI POINT ANNEXATION AREA

Election Failed
West Seattle: 54-2
Alki: 2-20



ALKI POINT TO INCORPORATE

Citizens of Summer Resort Want Self-Government, Believing That Delay Means Annexation to West Seattle.

Requisite Number of Signatures Endorsing Movement Secured This Morning—Papers Will Be Filed Shortly.

Citizens of Alki Point, who fear that West Seattle will annex their settlement, and who for months past have been secretly working canvassing each citizen for his views on incorporating the City of Alki Point, today secured the requisite number of signatures, and articles of incorporation will be filed immediately.

The incorporation of the town also means that the trouble experienced by certain hostelry proprietors in securing licenses for the sale of liquor will be at an end. Big times are anticipated by those living there during the coming summer months. Alki Point is to be made one of the most attractive resorts on the Sound when the city secures its own government, according to some of those favoring separate government.

It is also predicted that West Seattle citizens will use every effort to prevent the incorporation of Alki, and a lively campaign is looked for when the issue is brought before the voters.

Annexation proponents petitioned to annex a portion of Alki to West Seattle. If successful, Alki would be eligible for connection to the streetcar. The Stockade Hotel would also be eligible for liquor licensing, which upset the anti-saloon advocates. A majority in Alki voted against the petition.

October 1906

PROPOSED CITY OF WEST SEATTLE ANNEXATION AREA

Election Failed

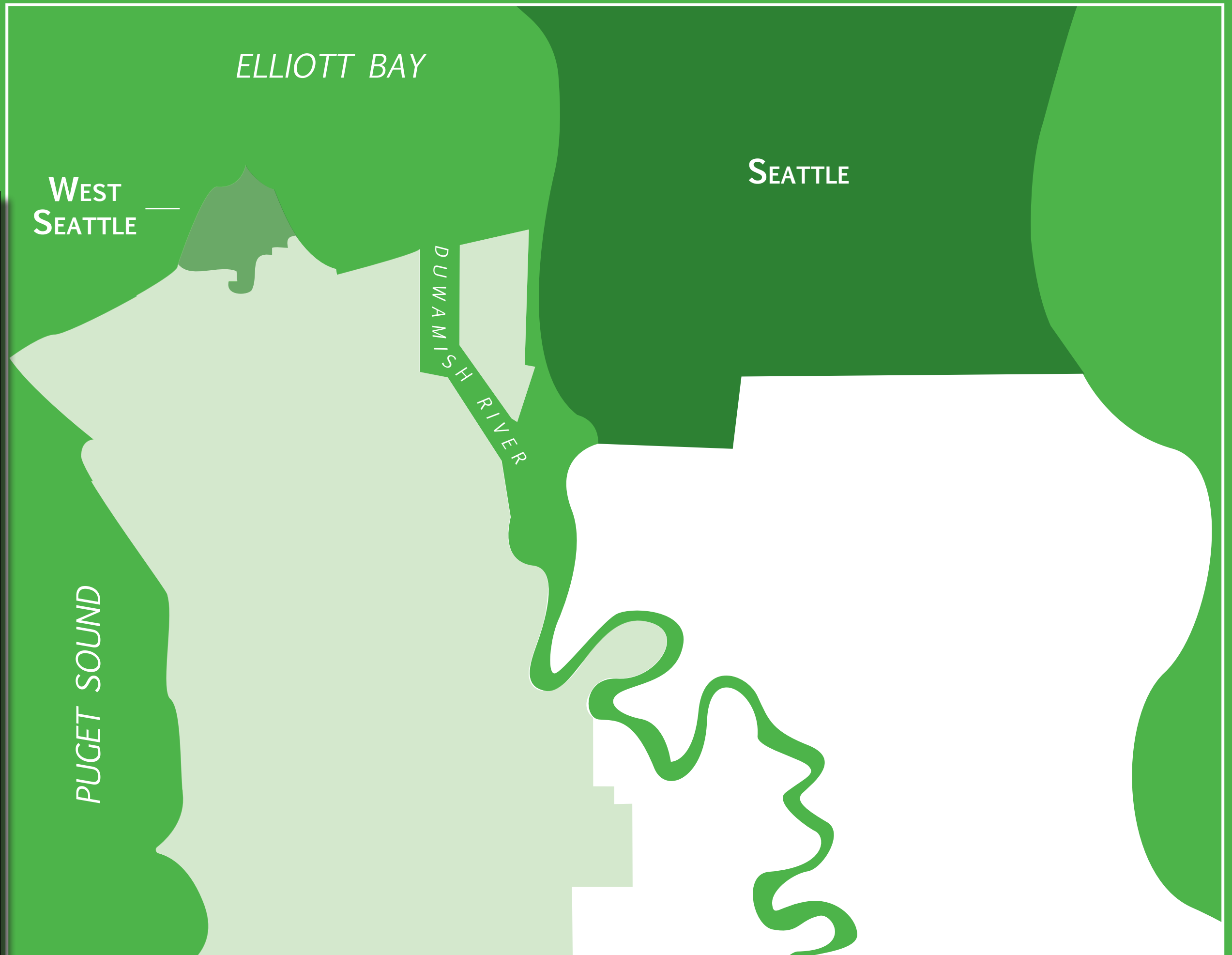
West Seattle: 163-13

Spring Hill: 22-2

Alki: 52-36

Youngstown: 44-134

Seattle Daily Times
October 7, 1906 - page 3



ANNEXATION MOVE LOST TO WEST SEATTLE

Little City Votes Almost Unanimously to Take Other Towns in, but the Other Towns Refuse to Accept.

SOUTH PARK DECIDES TO JOIN TO SEATTLE

Municipal Street Railway Will Be Sold to Stone & Webster Corporation for \$30,000—Youngstown Votes Nay.

PLANS to incorporate West Seattle and its surrounding towns of Alki Point, Springhill and Youngstown into one city for the purpose of annexing to Seattle, failed in a special election held in the several communities yesterday. The odd condition is presented of West Seattle voting in favor of admitting the other towns, while the other towns at the same time were declaring that they did not want to be admitted.

By a majority of 140 of a total vote of 166, the citizens of West Seattle voted to admit the surrounding towns under its government, while at the same time the three towns were voting against annexation to the number of 118 for and 172 against.

Along the banks of the Duwamish, several miles away, the citizens of South Park were also indulging in a special election, and they came out strongly for annexation direct to Seattle with a vote of 141 in favor of the measure to 59 against it.

At the same election poll the West Seattle citizen was voting on the question of selling the municipal street railway system to the Seattle Electric Company for \$30,000.

Vote to Sell Railway.

By a vote of 115 in favor of the measure to 52 against it, West Seattle decided to sell the road, at the same time administering another blow to the municipal ownership theorists, who had sought to further their schemes at the expense of West Seattle by urging the people of that city to throw aside the opportunity of selling a business enterprise which cost them \$18,000 at a profit of \$12,000.

It was universally conceded in West Seattle today that only for the intervention of The Times yesterday in calling attention to the fact of the supposed robbery of \$12,000 of money which actually belonged to the city to further the interests of the municipal ownership party, the voters would have been caught napping.

West Seattle is deeply chagrined over the failure of the measure for the annexation of the other towns, with the prospect of an early annexation to Seattle. The vote stood as follows:

On annexation—West Seattle, for, 163; against, 13. Alki Point, for, 52; against, 36. Springhill, for, 22; against, 2. Youngstown, against, 134; for, 44. Majority in West Seattle for admission, 140. Majority against annexation in the other towns, 54.

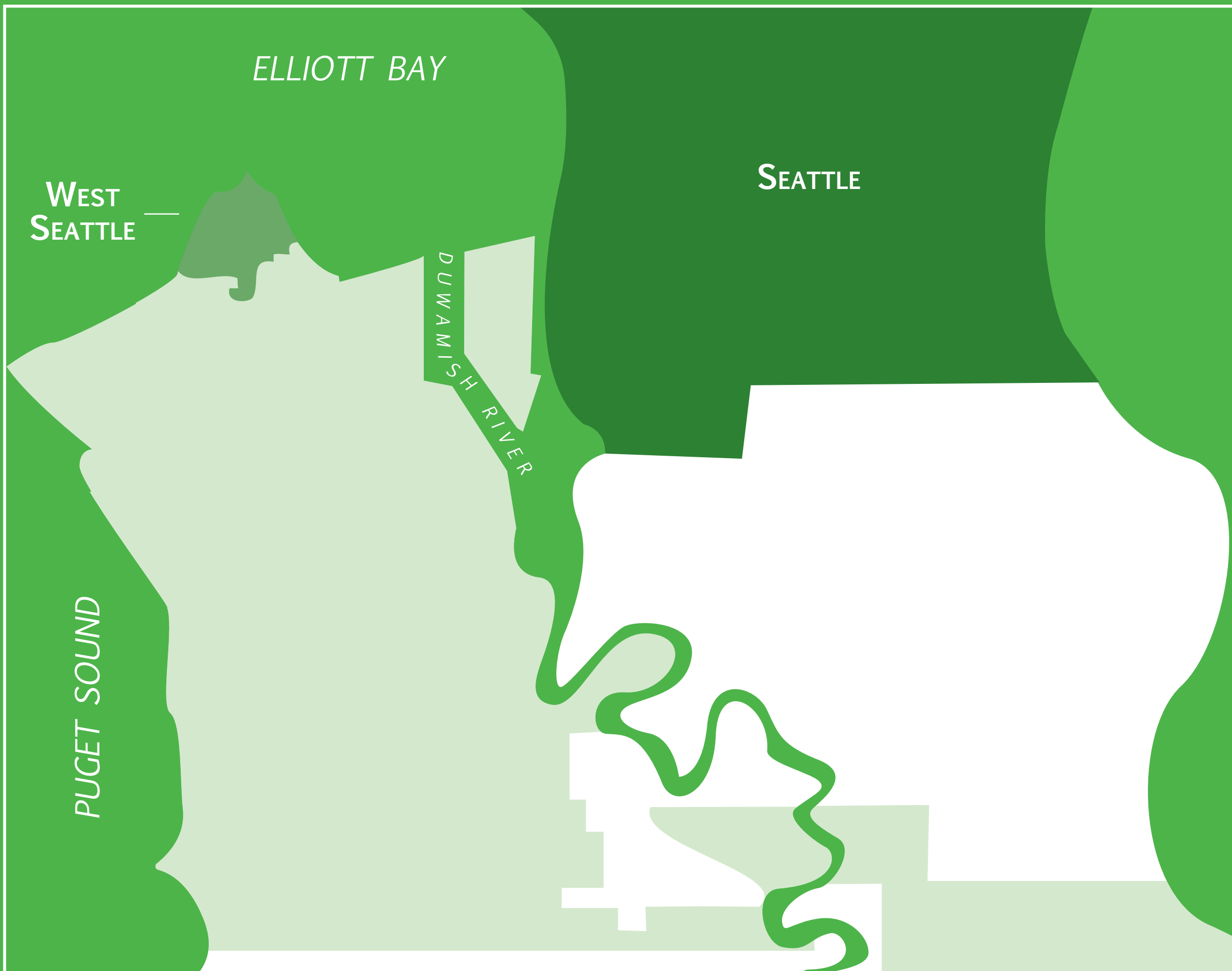
Considerable bitterness is expressed in West Seattle over the fact that while it was unanimous, almost, in inviting the other towns in, and while Alki Point and Springhill were of the same mind, Youngstown defeated the measure through the opposition of the saloon interests and the management of the steel works at that point.

This petition included many areas of opposition, but would also connect borders with Seattle. Seattle leaders traveled the Peninsula, attempting to convince people to vote for annexation and come “under the protection of the Greater Seattle.”

However, a majority voted against annexation. Youngstown, wanting to protect their liquor licensing, swung the “no” vote.

December 1906- January 1907

PROPOSED CITY OF ALKI-RAINIER AREA



Seattle Municipal
Archive: Election Ballot

Annexation proponents tried a new approach by attempting to create a new city, Alki-Rainier. This petition included most of the Peninsula and would be next to Seattle for future annexation. Washington Rutter, a proxy for the Puget Mill Company, wanted to cancel the Alki-Rainier election. The Puget Mill Company resisted annexation because they did not want higher taxes. Judge Yakey once again prevented the election.

ELECTION DECEMBER 4th, 1906

CITY OF WEST SEATTLE

INSTRUCTIONS—Mark X in under party name, for whose candidate you wish to vote.

If you do not desire to vote a straight party ticket place X in at the right of the name of one candidate for each office.

CITIZEN'S TICKET



FOR MAYOR

G. B. NIGOLL.....

FOR COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

J. D. McGEE.....

FOR COUNCILMEN-TWO YEAR TERM

W. G. DICKINSON.....

L. W. DAVIS.....

A. U. HERRETT.....

FOR COUNCILMAN-ONE YEAR TERM

D. R. ADAMS.....

FOR TREASURER

W. S. LEWIS.....

FOR HEALTH OFFICER

L. O. Fiset.....

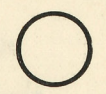
FOR CLERK

O. M. SPEAR.....

FOR ATTORNEY

E. F. KIENSTRA.....

PEOPLE'S ANNEXATION TICKET



FOR MAYOR

L. G. ERVEN.....

FOR COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

W. W. WATTERS.....

FOR COUNCILMEN-TWO YEAR TERM

H. R. STICKELS.....

D. E. CAMPBELL.....

A. W. LIPSKY.....

FOR COUNCILMAN-ONE YEAR TERM

SAMUEL WYLDE.....

FOR TREASURER

J. E. LONGFELLOW.....

FOR HEALTH OFFICER

W. A. POTTER.....

FOR CLERK

G. S. GOSHERT.....

FOR ATTORNEY

THOMAS B. MacMAHON.....

May 1907

PROPOSED CITY OF WEST SEATTLE ANNEXATION AREA

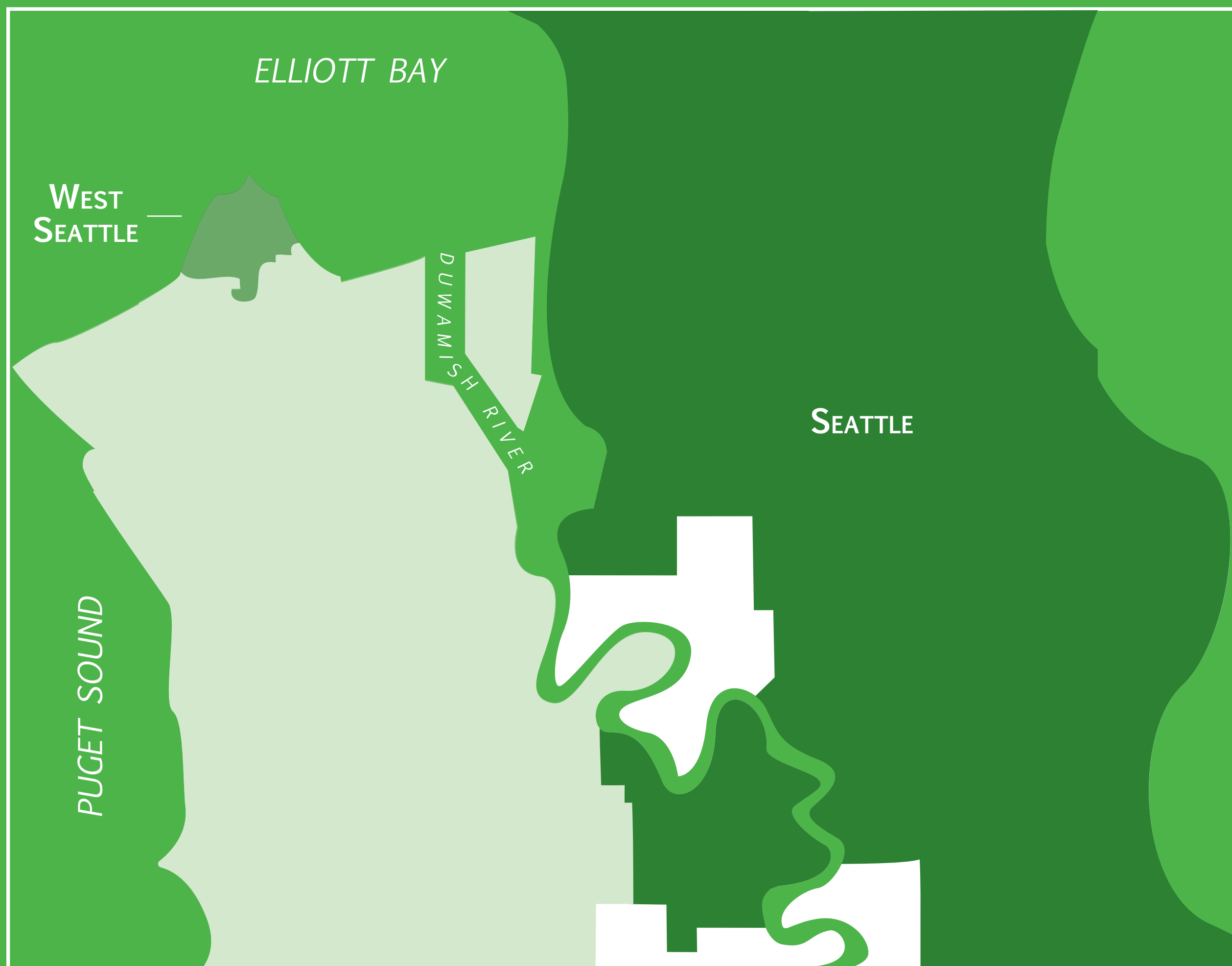
Election Approved

West Seattle: 180-5

Alki: 66-77

Spring Hill: 101-0

Youngstown: 87-123



Petitioners asked to annex most of the Duwamish Peninsula to the City of West Seattle. Anti-annexation parties called on Judge Bell to cancel the election.

The Seattle Chamber Committee recommended legal aid for the pro-annexation party. Before this, the residents of the proposed area to be annexed had no voice or help in court battles over annexation elections. West Seattle's attorney claimed that the real parties interested in stopping the election were the Youngstown saloon keepers. On the attorney's request, King County discovered that Youngstown saloons were within one mile of West Seattle. The county revoked their liquor licenses. With this obstacle out of the way, the vote succeeded.

CAMPAIGN TO OPEN THURSDAY

**Mayor Erven of West Seattle
Calls Mass Meeting of Citizens
to Discuss Special Election
of May 25.**

**There Will Be No Slate for the
Campaign Committee—All
Appointments Will Be Made
at the Meeting.**

From: Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, WA, April 24, 1907,
p 7.

June 1907

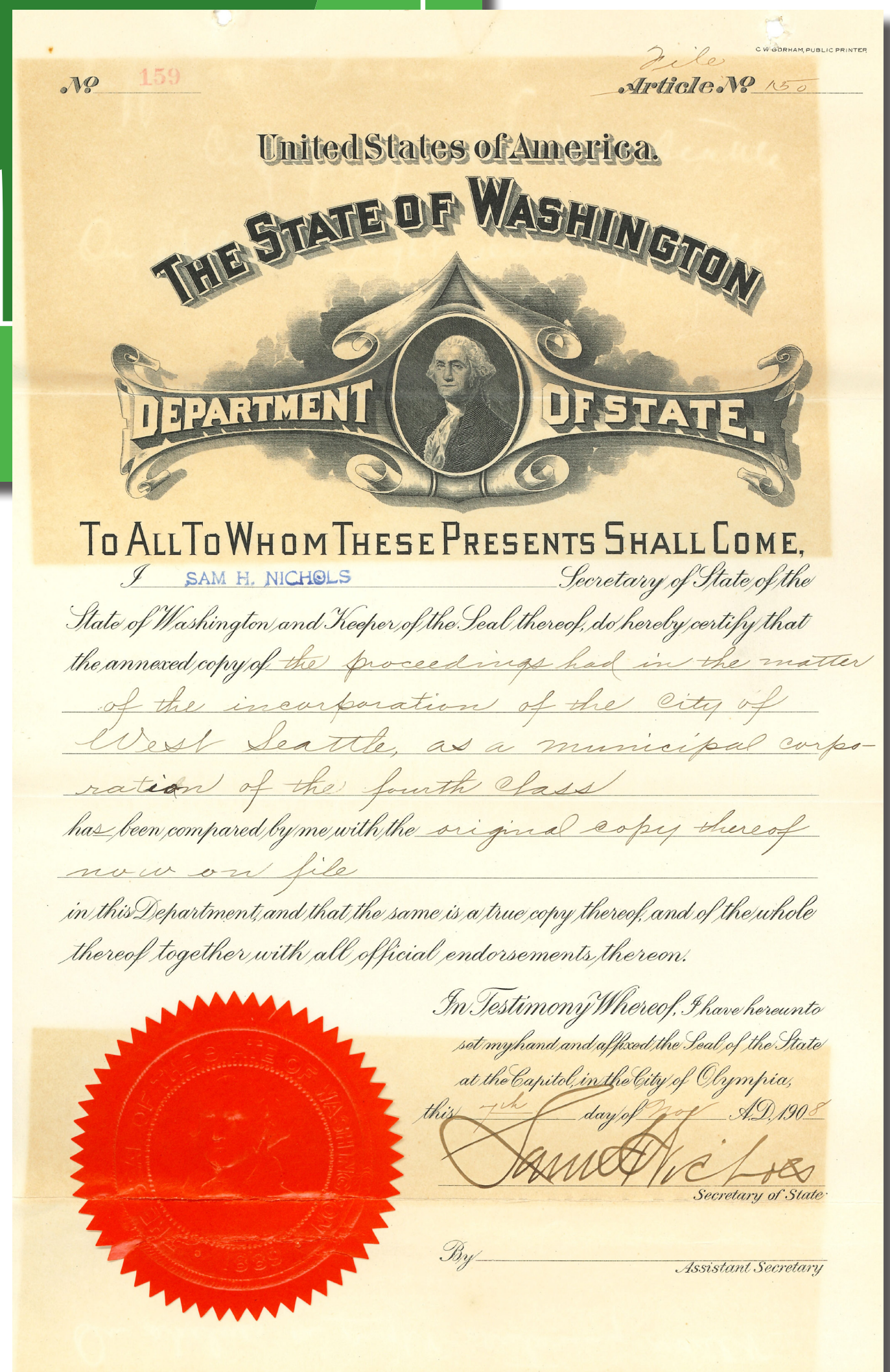
CITY OF WEST SEATTLE ANNEXES TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE

Election Approved
West Seattle: 325-8
Seattle City Council Approved



On July 24, 1907 West Seattle citizens voted for annexation and the vision of “Greater Seattle” came true. The city now had more land and more people and spread their government to the new Seattle citizens.

Seattle Municipal Archives:
Department of State Certificate



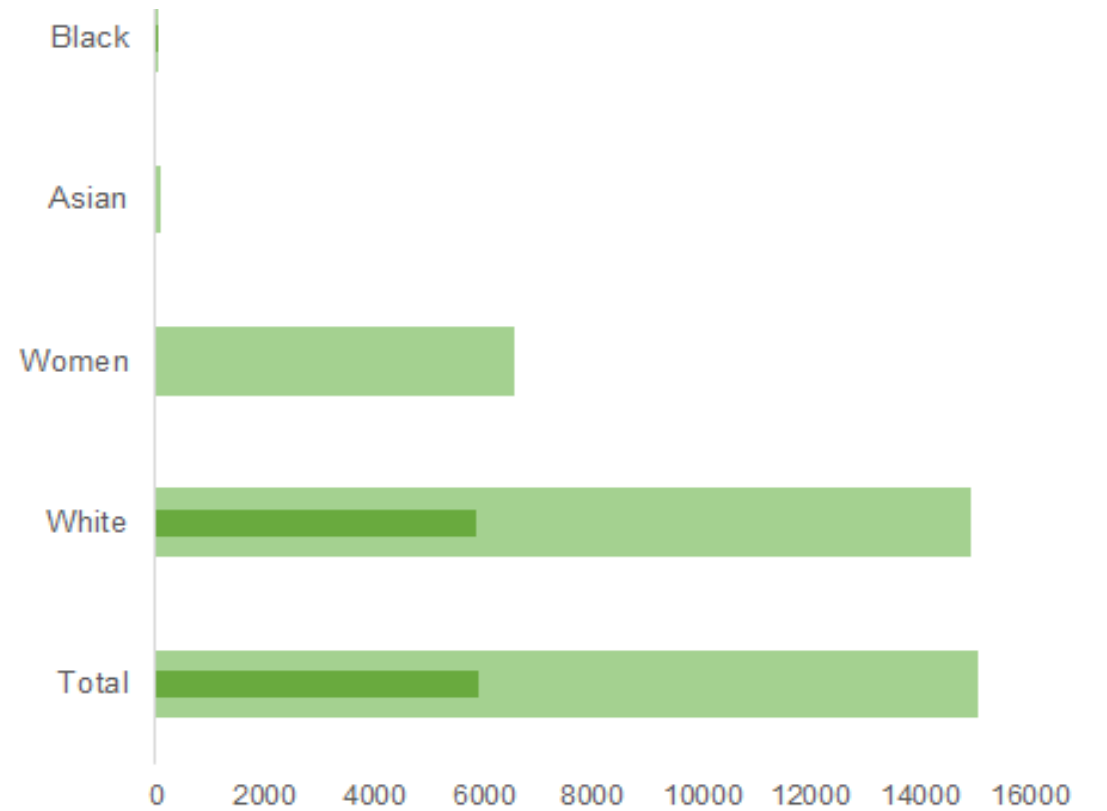
Who Could Vote on the Peninsula?

*We do not have demographics for 1907 West Seattle, these statistics are based on the 1910 Census for the 14th Ward of Seattle, which encompassed most of the Duwamish Peninsula

Only 39% of the population could vote in 1910

Women and Asian people could not vote, while a few indigenous people could vote

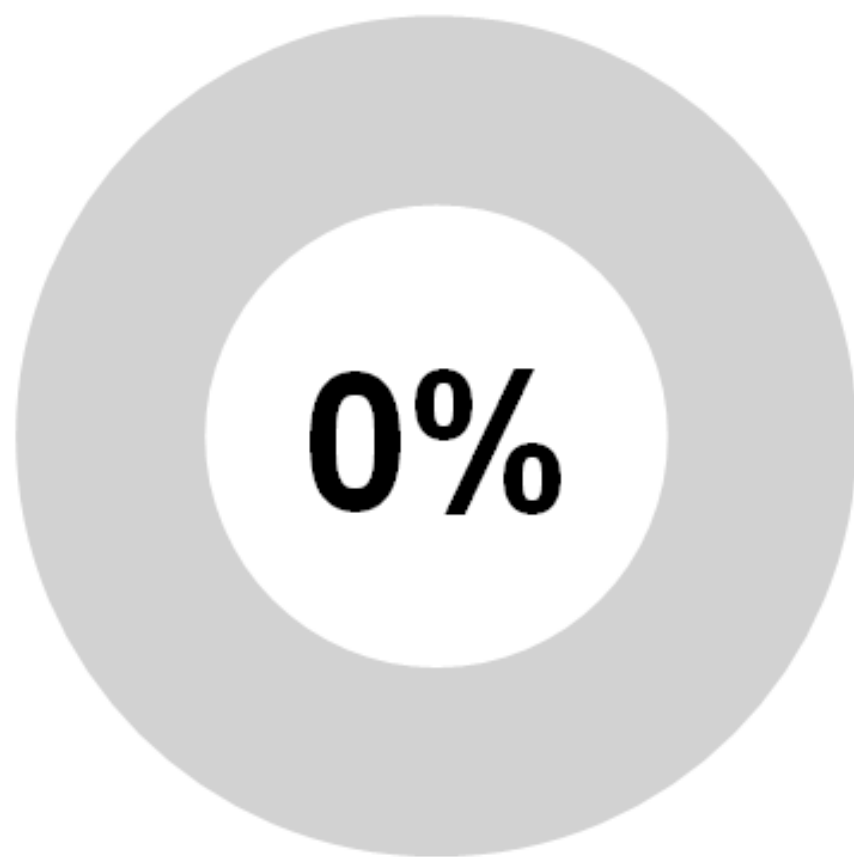
Not all residents of West Seattle were allowed a voice in the 1907 election. Women briefly won the right to vote in Washington State from 1883-1887. This was the first time that black women could vote in the entire United States. Women were denied suffrage in Washington in 1887 and would not get it back until 1910.



Source: 1910 Census Supplement for Washington

0% of Asian people could vote in 1910

In 1910, 0 out of 110 Asian people could vote

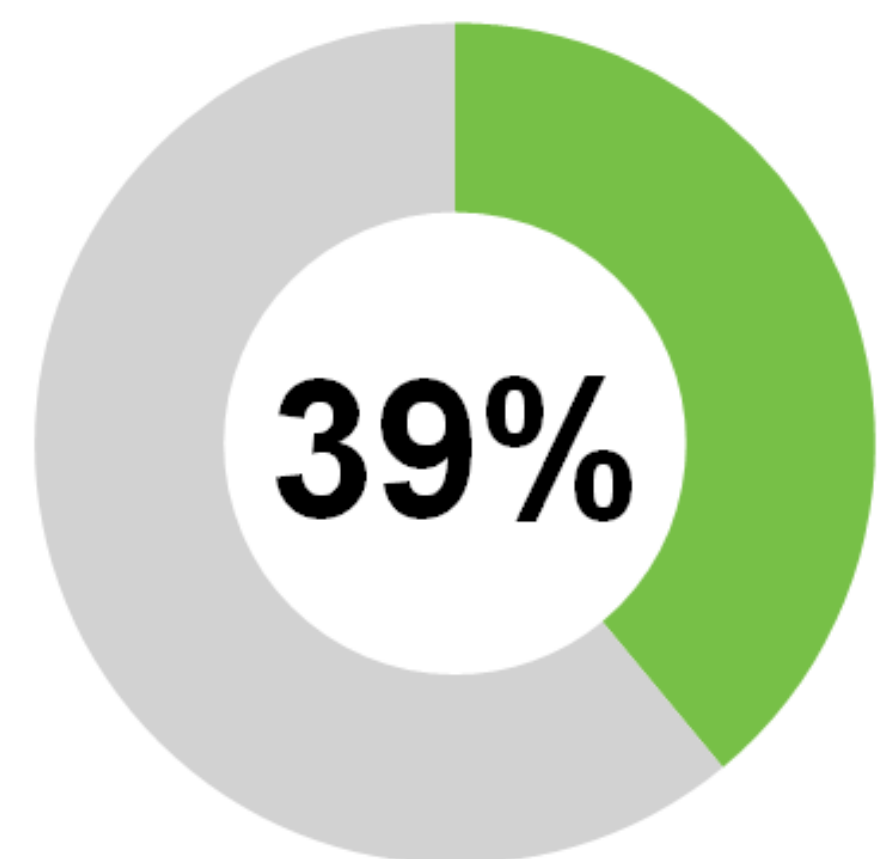


There was a significant Japanese immigrant population in early West Seattle, primarily single men who came to the US to work. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prevented Asian immigrants from becoming US citizens, and thus barring them from any opportunity to vote. It would not be until 1943 that Asian immigrants could become naturalized citizens.

39% of white people could vote in 1910

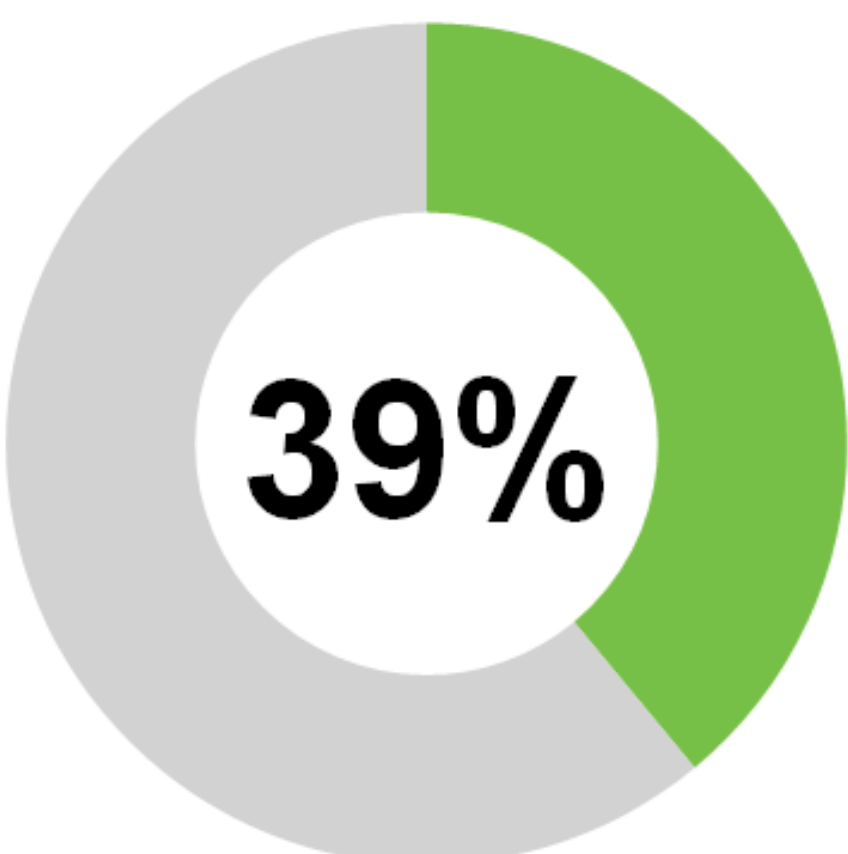
In 1910, 5,674 out of 14,924 white people could vote

Duwamish people who inhabited West Seattle in 1907, for the most part, did not get to vote in this election. Native men could become voting citizens in 1887 with the passing of the Dawes Act, but only if they became unaffiliated with their tribe. It was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that all Indigenous people had the right to vote.



39% of black people could vote in 1910

In 1910, 14 out of 36 black people could vote



In the 1907 election, inhabitants of the City of West Seattle who could vote were white men, the handful of black men in the area, and any Duwamish men who had become citizens. Women of all ethnicities, Duwamish tribal members, and Asian immigrants were excluded from having a voice in the decision to Annex to Seattle.

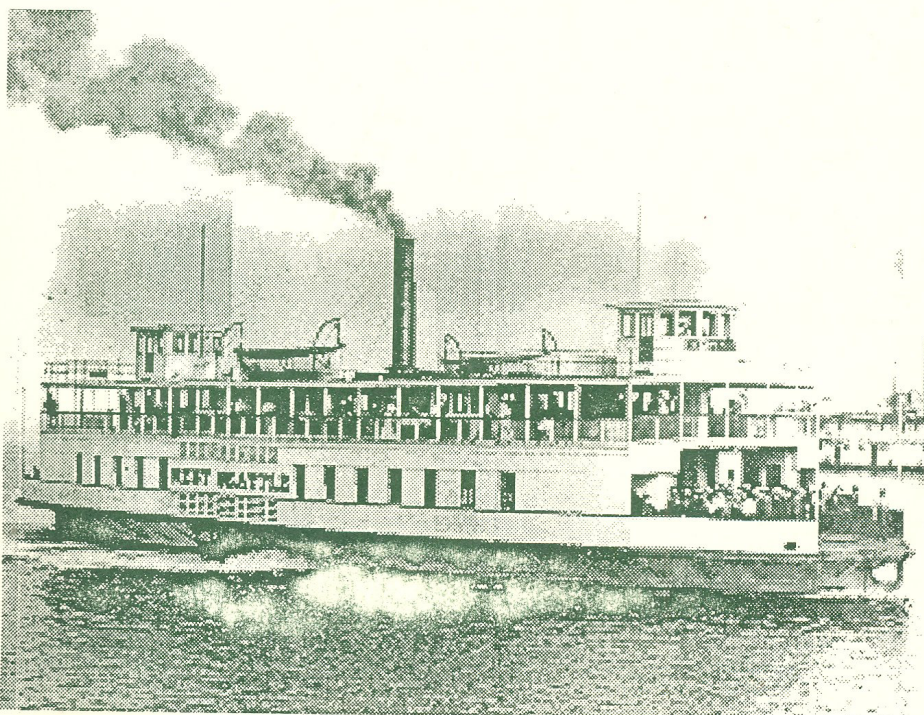
After Annexation

Greater Seattle

By 1910, Seattle added 49,126 people from annexing more land. This population increase made Seattle the West Coast's 3rd largest city and outpaced Portland to become the Pacific Northwest's most populous city.



West Seattle Census of 1907



Published by
Seattle Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1708
Seattle, WA 98111
July 1989

SWSHS: 1998.011.0004 West Seattle 1907 Census

Elections

In 1907, the residents of the annexed areas finally had a voice in the annexation debate because the Seattle Chamber of Commerce canvassed for votes, hired an attorney for the people, and used its influence to stop opposition to a vote. The Chamber had close ties to Seattle capitalists who would profit off an expanding city, so it is unclear whether the Chamber stepped in to ensure a fair election or if economic interests convinced them to act.

Seattle Electric Company

Many changes occurred in the wake of the Seattle annexation. The city of Seattle granted Furth a streetcar franchise once again, which he purchased from the City of West Seattle. However, he did not get his electric utility and Seattle extended its public electric utility to the Duwamish Peninsula.



Parallels

Transportation

The people of the Duwamish Peninsula needed better transportation to access Seattle and other parts of the Peninsula. The municipal streetcar was too expensive, and corporate transportation proved unreliable. Annexation meant that increased ridership might raise revenue. Today, many areas of Seattle still face transportation issues due to its growing population but the process to pay for transportation upgrades are controversial.



Controlled Substances

Today, cannabis legalization mirrors the issues of anti-saloon concerns. Anti-saloon advocates were concerned about saloons spreading vice in their communities. Similar arguments are made today about cannabis and marijuana dispensaries. Many people want to prohibit consumption in public areas and to limit the presence of dispensaries.

Corporations

Annexation petitioners moved the lines on their maps to avoid opposition from businesses such as the Puget Mill Company, Seattle Steel, and the West Seattle Land and Improvement Company. In court, these companies used their influence to hire attorneys and cancel elections. Corporate influence is also an issue in Seattle today. Citizen debate over the amount of lobbying and influence that corporations should have in local politics.



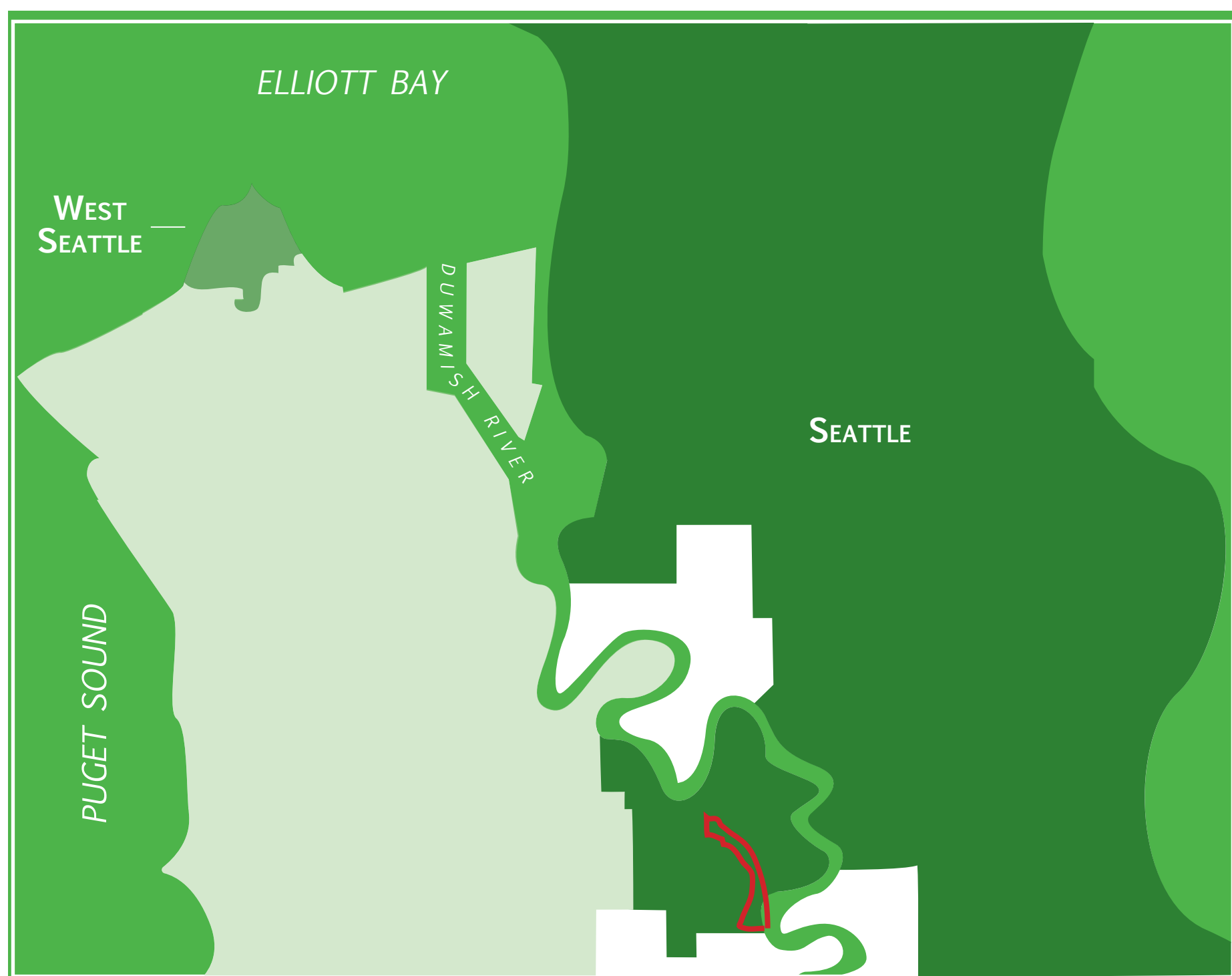
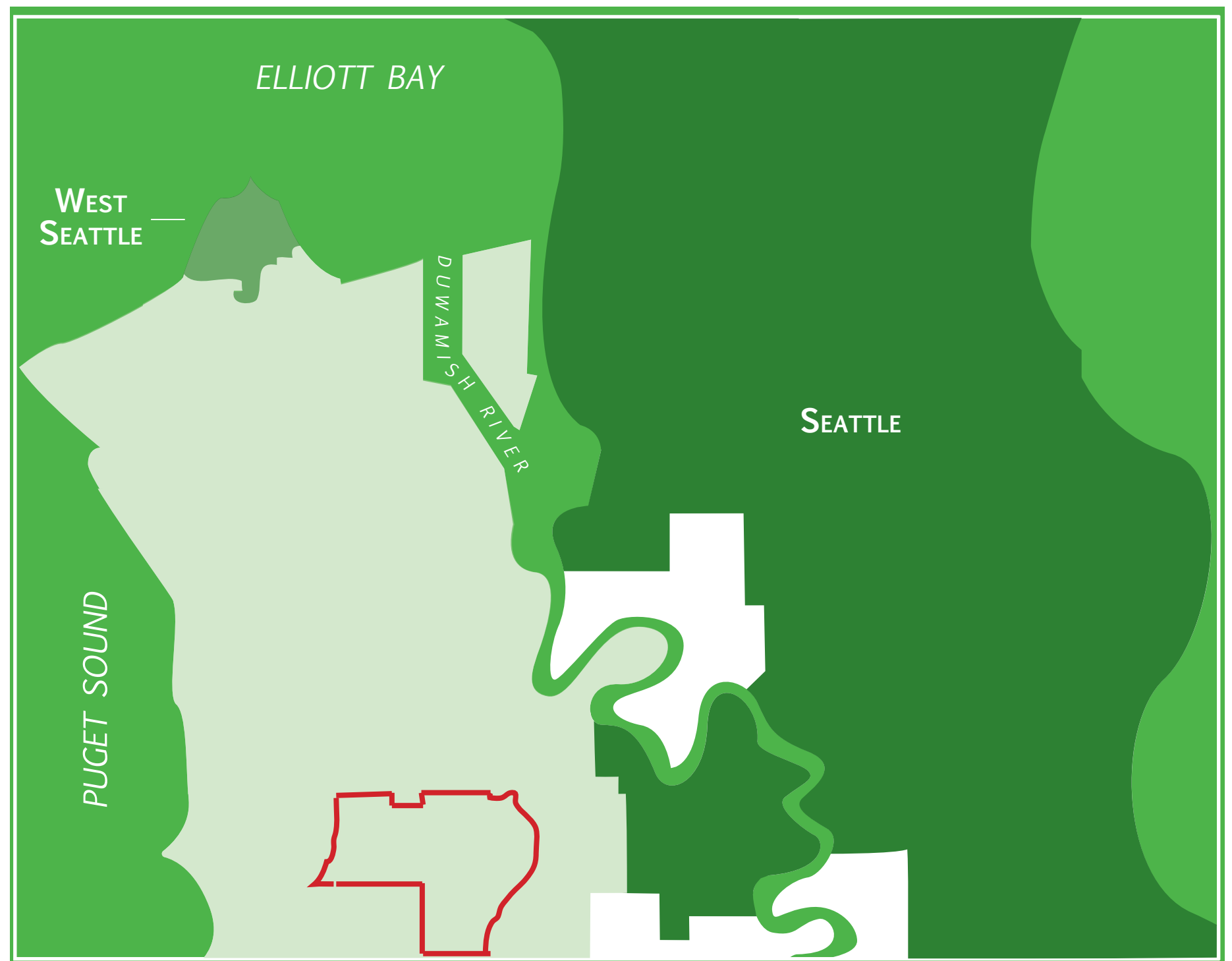
Taxes

Some residents and businesses argued that annexation would force them to pay taxes which funded services that would not benefit them. Today, we still debate the fairness of our tax system. According to a 2019 study, the tax burden in Seattle today is proportionately higher for low-income individuals than high-income individuals. There is also debate over how much corporations in Seattle should be taxed.

Annexation Today

White Center

Annexation is still an issue for the Duwamish Peninsula. White Center is a part of unincorporated King County, even though it has a large population and is close to Seattle and Burien. King County has been encouraging annexation of these unincorporated areas because county services are designed for regional and rural areas. Some residents think that joining Seattle would improve services and decrease their property taxes. Others fear that Seattle will not prioritize their needs and that the area would become gentrified. A proposal to annex White Center to Burien failed in 2012. In 2017, Seattle mayor Durkan stated that she was in favor of annexing White Center, but so far no plans have been proposed.



Sliver by the River

The “silver by the river” is a remnant of the annexation petition lines drawn in 1907. In January 2017, a proposal for annexation was put on hold because the Seattle City Council decided that they would only consider annexation after King County replaces an outdated sewer system, estimated to cost \$14 to \$50 million. The residents of White Center and the sliver by the river have not had an opportunity to decide if they want to join Seattle.

Annexation

Communities of Contention

