

Biography for Bruce Laing

Bruce Laing was born in Seattle on August 17, 1932, son of Robert and Bertha (Huber) Laing. He had two sisters, Kathryn and Elizabeth, and a brother, Robert. He attended Seattle University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, and the University of Washington, where he received a Masters of Urban Planning. He married Brigid Flood and they had three children: Jim, Colleen, and Greg.

After working as a professional planner for engineering, planning, and development firms and with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, he served as chief zoning and subdivision examiner for King County from 1970-1979. In 1975, he received the Outstanding Public Employee award from the Municipal League of King County.

Elected to the King County Council in 1979, he went to work on a number of land-use and infrastructure issues. He served on the Metro Council, overseeing the bus and sewage systems of King County, and on the Executive Board of the Puget Sound Council of Governments, a regional planning body.

When he decided not to run for reelection in 1995, a *Seattle Times* editorial hailed his "legacy of competence" and "civility." The *Times* continued, "Bruce Laing walks away from a council job with no heir apparent for his role of most valuable player."

Not content to sit on the sidelines, in 1998, Laing continued his public service as Endangered Species Act adviser to the county, with a focus on the potential listing of the Puget Sound Chinook. On November 1, 2003, then-Governor Gary Locke appointed him to the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board. His term ended in August, 2006.