

# Wing Luke --

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so strong that in 1961 Wing Luke decided to run for a seat on the Seattle City Council.

Despite an anonymous smear campaign, Wing Luke won the primary and the general election. He was sworn in on March 13, 1962, becoming the first Chinese American to hold political office on

the West Coast.

The council was conservative and Wing Luke, a liberal, often stood alone on issues. He fought particularly hard for civil rights, urban renewal, historic preservation, and a plan to ease the downtown parking problem.

On the issue of open housing, Luke maneuvered the conservative council to commit to passing an open-housing ordinance. He wouldn't settle for an implied amendment; he demanded a commitment, and he got one.

Throughout Luke's climb up the political ladder, his personality remained

unchanged. Like when, as a teenager, Luke learned to befriend his tormentors and win them over through respect and communication, he effectively took stands on important issues in the city council.

His manner was described as quiet, efficient, ambitious, and wise, and he always had a good sense of humor. He paved the way into politics not only for minorities who have followed in his footsteps, but for any young, ambitious, people who have a desire to make positive changes and to plan for the future.

Wing Luke died early in a tragic light airplane crash. He will not be forgotten.