



King County Democrats 2007 General Candidate Questionnaire

Name	David J. Della	Position Sought	Seattle City Council Position 7
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City	Seattle	Phone Number	206-257-0730
State	WA	Fax Number	
Zip Code	98122	E-mail Address	david@daviddella.com
Precinct		Web Page	www.daviddella.com

Present Occupation Incumbent? How Long?	Incumbent, 3-1/2 years	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION <i>(Leave Blank - For Committee Use Only)</i>
Employer	City of Seattle	
Union Affiliations		

WHAT RATINGS AND ENDORSEMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED?			
Legislative District(s)/Unions	Municipal League	Women's Political Caucus	SeaMEC
ILWU Local 19; IBU; UA Local 32; IFPTE Local 17; FAPAGOW	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.				
#	Question	Yes	No	Qualified*
1.	Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat? If not, explain.	X		
2.	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	X		
3.	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X		
4.	Do you support affirmative action?	X		
5.	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	X		
6.	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	X		
7.	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		X	
8.	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	X		
9.	Do you support equal rights for women?	X		
10.	Do you support the Patriot Act?		X	
11.	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	X		
12.	How long have you been registered to vote? Have you missed any elections in the last three years?	34 years		No
If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions please explain on a separate sheet of paper.		Yes	No	
14.	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?			X
15.	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	X (see attached explanation)		
16.	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?			X

* - If you wish to qualify your answer, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet of paper.



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**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
(YOU MAY USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER FOR ANSWERS)**

1. Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom?

No. I am a lifelong Democrat and have supported Democratic candidates in any and all jurisdictions that I have lived and worked.

2. Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

I am a member of the 36th District Democrats and prior to that the 37th District Democrats, 43rd and 11th District Democrats. Over the years, I have contributed to numerous Democrats including current Governor Christine Gregoire, former Governor Gary Locke, County Executive Sims, County Council Chair Larry Gossett, County Councilmember Bob Ferguson, State Representatives Bob Hasegawa, Sharon Tomiko Santos and Eric Pettigrew, former State Representative Velma Voloria as well as NARAL Pro-Choice Washington and the Washington Conservation Voters.

3. What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? Why will you win? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date?

The main messages of my campaign are to:

Keep Seattle affordable for working families and individuals by increasing affordable housing to help draw more families back to our city, investing in smart transportation options that help us get around without breaking the bank and making our parks a place we can all enjoy. Additionally, after the tragic death of my former Chief of Staff, Tatsuo Nakata, the issue of pedestrian safety has taken on a very personal meaning for me. As a member of the City Council, it is a priority of mine to ensure people can get around our city safely.

My campaign plan is to win a majority of the votes, or roughly 91,000 votes in November. Because of the city-wide nature of this campaign, our canvassing efforts will be limited; however, we do have aggressive goals for house parties, phone banking and email trees. In my last campaign, we set up over 15 phone banks and expect to double that number this year. Our new website allows supporters to email their friends about the campaign with a track back link to the site. Our goal is to have an email list of several thousand supporters prior to the election. We also have conducted about 10 coffees this year with another 20 in the works. The fundraising goal of the campaign is \$300,000 and to date I have raised about \$123,000 from over 700 donors, giving this campaign more donors than any other candidate running for office in King County this year.

4. What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

The most pressing issue for the City of Seattle is making sure that people can live and work in the city—by keeping it affordable, providing jobs and looking at smart transportation options.

5. If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

In my first term on the Council, we lowered utility rates for the first time this decade and reduced City Light debt by over \$57 million. I sponsored the largest Families and Education Levy in Seattle's history and voted against cuts for school nurses. I voted to support organizations that promote family wage jobs like PortJOBS, and voted to fund over 50 new police officers. I stood up to the mayor's ill-conceived Big Dig tunnel plan because it would have put all our transportation eggs into a financially unsustainable basket, and stood up to the Sonics threats, insisting instead on a fair deal for Seattleites.

6. Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not, how would you change it?

Washington has a terribly regressive tax system that is overly reliant on the sales tax. This has been



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exacerbated by the Tim Eyman initiatives during the last decade. We have gone down the income tax road too many times and landed at a dead end with voters.

However, I do believe, at least in Seattle, that voters will support services with their tax dollars as evidenced by their continued support of bond and levy measures for schools, public safety and parks. I support the pending initiative that would lower the threshold to 50% to pass school bonds and levies and would like to see it extended to other public services.

7. How would you balance continued growth, the quality of the environment and declining petroleum and energy resources? What is the role of the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO)?

Seattle is growing denser and smarter thanks to a few initiatives I've undertaken in my first term. I amended the city's downtown density plan to create more affordable housing and open space. I supported a city-wide street car system running from South Lake Union to the International District and Central area to give in-city commuters alternatives to driving. My work in the Parks Committee helped expand wetlands at Magnuson Park and my amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance helped protect Seattle's shorelines.

8. The caucus system helps Democratic Party members in a legislative body work together and stick together. Do you support determining leadership positions and committee chair positions *solely within the ranks of the Democratic Caucus*?

I support the will of the Democratic Party in whatever method they believe is fair and balanced. I would suggest that there be an outreach component to include those traditionally underrepresented groups to participate in order to guarantee civic engagement.

9. What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Government should take the steps to have healthcare for its citizens. I applaud the work of Gov. Gregoire in working to ensure that all of Washington's children are insured. I believe that the next step is a national plan of universal healthcare.

10. What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and trans gendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I am fully supportive of the LGBT community and their fight to attain marriage equality which will guarantee the basic rights that many people take for granted. I applauded the victories this past year in Olympia in this arena and will find ways to incorporate these measures into the City of Seattle.

11. What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

As someone who grew up with very few resources, my family relied on many programs in the community and government to get by. We were able to pursue our dreams in Seattle because of affordable housing, good public schools and inexpensive public transportation.

This is why, I play an active role in local and regional decision-making processes to support regional business growth where I am: Co-chair of the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence, a group composed of representatives from manufacturing/industrial, business, and educational sectors, whose mission is to assist local businesses with a focus on manufacturing, construction and transportation industries; Co-chair of the Puget Sound Regional Council's Economic Development District, a newly created working group to focus creating 100,000 jobs over the next decade through a four county regional economic strategy which also in part on expanding and encouraging the participation of minority-owned businesses in Prosperity Partnership project; and Board member of enterpriseSeattle, a county-wide organization, whose mission is to build a world-class economy in King County and the Seattle area by creating, retaining, and recruiting high value companies and jobs to the region.

12. What would you like us to know about you?

I am a lifelong Seattle resident – I love this city and have been committed to public service all my life.

In the interests of strengthening the Democratic Party and the ability of the Party to support me or any other candidate, I pledge to uphold high ethical standards. I am responsible for the content of literature, advertising, and statements disseminated by my campaign. If my campaign releases information regarding my opponent(s), I pledge that any such release will allow reasonable time for verification by the voters.



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Signature		Date 5/14/2007	
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Please attach a recent resume.

15.	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?
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In April 2007, the SEEC approved a settlement with my newly installed Chief of Staff. The settlement found that my chief of staff used city resources by writing a draft of an op-ed on my behalf on the Viaduct issue that was requested by the Seattle Times using city computer. On his second day at work, my chief of staff received a request from the Seattle Times for me to submit an op-ed piece prior to the March ballot. My office also posed the question to the SEEC staff. Based on these facts, the full SEEC recommended a fine of \$150, which my chief of staff has agreed to pay.

In March 2005, my campaign was fined \$500 for late filings of 4 C4s. The penalty could have been significantly more, but the Executive Director of SEEC reduced the penalty to \$500 because he took into account the fact that my campaign staff brought it the SEEC's attention, very little financial activity occurred during the reporting periods, and it was early during the 2007 election cycle.



My parents, Narciso and Inocencia, came to Seattle in the 1940's to seek their dreams. My father joined many other Filipino immigrants who migrated each spring and summer to Alaska to work 18-hours each day in the salmon canning industry while my mother raised the nine of us.

Despite contracting polio in Seattle's mid-century epidemic, my mother made sure all of us made it through school, while holding down a full-time job as a key punch operator and later as a city employee.

It was only after our family continued to win the Thanksgiving turkey raffle at St. George's Church on Beacon Hill year after year, that I first realized we were what is now termed as "the working poor," Still, Seattle was still a city of opportunity for us—because we could get by and still seek our dreams.

My parents could keep up with the mortgage in our modest homes in the Georgetown Area and on Beacon Hill; even though we didn't own a car, a few cents could get us anywhere on the bus system.



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I graduated from Cleveland High School and attended the University of Washington and Bastyr Leadership Institute.

My career began as a labor organizer, working with my lifelong friends Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, as we fought for the rights and wages of other poor Filipino cannery workers (like my father) who were being exploited by corrupt union leaders.

After Silme and Gene were killed for their efforts, I dedicated myself to continuing their work making unions responsive to the people they represented. I served as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 37 and then as a national organizer for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

In 1990, Mayor Norm Rice asked me to come to work for him as a liaison for labor issues. It was a dream job for me because I was able to work for one of my heroes and learn about how city government works.

Three years later, I was tapped to run the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, building a statewide network of advocates for the Asian Pacific Islander communities as well as supporting programs for at-risk youth, providing welfare reform support for immigrant/refugee families, promoting diversity in state government and increasing trade between Washington state and Asia.

I came back to Seattle full-time in 1999 as the Community Affairs Director at the United Way of King County, allocating millions of dollars to community based programs that help those in need.

Those close to me have known that public service is in my blood, so none of my friends were surprised when I decided to run for Seattle City Council in 2003.

It has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience as I've worked over the last 3 years to make our city more affordable so another generation of Della's and another generation of dreamers could make their roots here.

Please visit my website at www.daviddella.com to learn more about me. I hope I can count on your support!