



King County Democrats 2007 General Candidate Questionnaire

Name	Gael Tarleton	Position Sought	Seattle Port Commissioner, Position #2
Campaign Address	PO Box 9100	Campaign Manager	Mina Hashemi
City	Seattle	Phone Number	(206)661-0281
State	WA	Fax Number	
Zip Code	98109	E-mail Address	gaeltarleton@voteforgael.org
Precinct	SEA 36-2511	Web Page	voteforgael.org

Present Occupation Incumbent? How Long?	Analyst, Global Strategies	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION <i>(Leave Blank - For Committee Use Only)</i>
Employer	University of Washington	
Union Affiliations	N/A	

WHAT RATINGS AND ENDORSEMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED?			
Legislative District(s)/Unions	Municipal League	Women's Political Caucus	SeaMEC
		X	

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?		30 yrs		
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
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 Democrat, and have only supported and given money to Democrats in partisan races.

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?

Yes, I am an active member of my local district organization, the 36th LD. I have contributed financially to the DCCC, the DNC, the 36th LD, the Washington State Democrats, and many Democratic candidates at the local, state, and federal levels. I am not a PCO.

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?

a. Restoring public confidence and trust in the Port Commission. Recent revelations of a planned golden parachute for the former Port CEO using public monies without subjecting the decision to public scrutiny has undermined the integrity of the Port. I see it as my principal responsibility to earn back the trust of the citizens of King County, so that the Port will be able to be a public institution that we all can respect. As an employee of one of the largest public institutions in the state, and as a former employee of the U.S. Defense Department, I understand how critical public trust can be.

b. Building a long-term security strategy for our airport and seaport. A realistic, well-planned security strategy is long overdue. The Port's ability to reduce disruptions and recover from any disaster should be our community's highest priority. The potential loss of lives, economic activity, and critical transportation networks should be sufficient reason to get serious about security planning and preparation. But six years after the Nisqually earthquake and five and a half years after the September 11th tragedy, our Port maintains an ad-hoc approach to thinking about security. This is not an acceptable situation for the Port's workforce.

c. Our current transportation planning is inefficient, and the Port Commission has failed to assume a leadership role on critical surface transportation issues in our area. If we improve our infrastructure efficiency, we can move more planes, more ships, and more trucks – and create more jobs. Trade volume is expected to double over the next 5 years, and its critical to our infrastructure needs to develop a long-term transportation plan for our Port.

d. My campaign will demonstrate that Bob Edwards has not produced a strategy for dealing with security risks, environmental threats, and effective oversight of Port financial investments of taxpayer dollars. My goal is to raise \$250,000. I have raised 61,850 to date

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

The most pressing issues facing the Port of Seattle include rebuilding voter confidence in the Port of Seattle's internal management and the Commission's oversight; immediate strategic planning to anticipate the environmental and security risks associated with major trade growth; and reversing the Port's operating deficit. If elected, I will assess the new Port CEO's plans to address this issue, I will work with Port leaders to develop new 5-year strategic plan for 2008-2012 that includes ways to measure the Port's progress on environment, security, and fiscal planning; and I work with fellow commissioners to establish the goal of having the Port of Seattle be a national leader in defining standards for the 21st Century Port so that we are recognized as one of the safest, cleanest ports in the world.



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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.

I have a unique combination of qualifications and experience to be the leader that the Port Commission needs right now. I have 25 years of experience dealing with national security threats and developing strategic plans to mitigate potential risks to our nation's ports. I have extensive international business development and management experience, building partnerships with government and industry in the US, Russia, and Eastern Europe. I've worked with industry leadership to solve technical challenges, including environmental clean-up and port security technology needs. I have managed multi-million dollar contracts; led numerous committees for government and industry; and chaired a Seattle-based non-profit trade and economic development organization for 5 years. My experience in government, industry, and my 25-year record of public service on issues of critical national importance makes me the ideal candidate to bring new leadership to the port, and change the way the port does business.

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?

It is crucial that the Port Commission make infrastructure investments that benefit the public, and they must make more effective decisions in their investment spending at the port. I am opposed to privatizing the Seattle Port, where port leaders can make decisions with impunity. We must restore the public's trust in the Port Commission by holding our port leaders accountable for their financial decisions. With my experience, I will bring a new kind of leadership to the port, and change the way the port does business.

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)?

These issues are central to the Port's long-term strategic planning, since trade growth is essential to our economic well-being. We must balance growth and environmental protection with effective planning; regular assessment of the Port's performance against other Ports of similar size; and use of independent, third-party analyses to ensure that the Port stays aware of industry trends and new technologies.

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?

Yes

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

Government should use its purchasing power, and its role in defining policy and creating laws to that ensure healthcare for its citizens. Government should also provide a safety net for individuals who cannot afford health insurance from their employers; and most importantly, children should have access to healthcare regardless of whether their parents have employer-provided 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?

All citizens should be given equal rights under the Bill of Rights regardless of race, sex, color, or sexual orientation. I will always support equal rights for couples who freely enter into a committed relationship regardless of their sexual orientation. It is particularly crucial that these couples be given rights to make decisions for each other during health crises; that they may designate each other as estate beneficiaries; and that they may have legal rights to parent their children.



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

We must make investments in broad-based opportunity: I will invest in living-wage jobs because investments in our workforce and our infrastructure (including roads, technology, research and development, and economic infrastructure) are critical. And we must eliminate policies that reward companies for outsourcing American jobs, and that make it increasingly difficult for American workers to work together to bargain in unions for a level playing field with their employers.

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

I recruited a 28-year-old Washington DC-based non-profit to relocate to Seattle, WA in July 2006 to establish a strategic alliance with the University of Washington. This alliance has resulted in more than \$2 million in new research funding to our region. I've also led the committee to establish a \$100,000 endowed education and scholarship fund in 2005-2006 that benefits high school students in inner city and urban high school in Boston, MA.

I've also reported to Al Gore's commission on climate change and environmental security in the 1990s as part of an international research initiative. I led research teams supporting Environmental Protection Agency programs to measure air quality in highly industrialized regions of Russia, and I'm on the Steering Committee of "The Global State of Washington" project, which is examining Washington State's role as a leader in the field of environmental sustainability.

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.

Signature	Date
Gael Tarleton	5/17/2007

Please attach a recent resume.