



King County Democrats 2007 General Candidate Questionnaire

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|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name | Tom Rasmussen | Position Sought | Seattle City Council Position 5 |
| Campaign Address | PO Box 4647 | Campaign Manager | Dan Nolte |
| City | Seattle | Phone Number | 206-234-8303 |
| State | WA | Fax Number | |
| Zip Code | 98194 | E-mail Address | campaign@tom4seattle.com |
| Precinct | 34-1443 | Web Page | www.tom4seattle.com |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Present Occupation Incumbent? How Long? | Incumbent. First term (3.5 years). | COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION <i>(Leave Blank - For Committee Use Only)</i> |
| Employer | City of Seattle | |
| Union Affiliations | None | |

| WHAT RATINGS AND ENDORSEMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED? | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Legislative District(s)/Unions | Municipal League | Women's Political Caucus | SeaMEC |
| Too early for Legislative Districts/Carpenters; Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 32; Laborers Local 242; IFPTE Local 17; HERE Local 8, Allied Arts | Too early | Too early | Too early |

| 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? | | x | Registered since 21 | |
| 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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Answer 15. Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Late filing of campaign report.

Response to Question 5 relating to record of performance:

Housing, Human Services and Health initiatives

- Led Council in siting of Seattle's first comprehensive homeless services center.
- Led Council development of Alcohol Impact Areas restricting sale of low cost/high alcohol content beverages in neighborhoods experiencing negative impacts from chronic public inebriation.
- Led Council in adding \$2 million in funding for shelter beds, senior services, food delivery programs and health clinics.
- Secured funding to strengthen health services for minority communities including African American Elders and Seattle's first comprehensive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Health Center.
- Created new Emergency Utility Assistance program for low-income seniors and other customers facing water shut off
- Launched development of new City site acquisition fund for affordable housing.
- Led Council adoption of City plan to guide investment of nearly \$13 million in domestic violence programs.
- Led development of policies for the City's investment of \$10 million in enhanced public health services – Healthy Communities Initiative.
- Launched a new effort to develop strategies to assure affordable housing for all
- Led development of legislation protecting tenants losing apartments due to condominium conversions.
- Initiated plan to help Seattle's senior centers.
- Increased funding for Employment Program for Seniors
- Leading City's Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness

Public Safety Initiatives

- Led Council initiative to secure state approval and \$500,000 in funding for pilot 'red-light cameras' program to improve pedestrian safety in dangerous traffic intersections.
- Joined Council President Nick Licata to secure \$400,000 to create the Law Enforcement/Human Services Public Safety Pilot Program to fight crime in the Miller Park, Rainier Beach, Downtown and Pioneer Square Senior neighborhoods.
- Led Council efforts to strengthen Elder Abuse program funding in Seattle Police Department



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Urban Development and Planning

- Revised land use codes for neighborhoods to encourage affordable housing development
- Transportation improvements
- Supported Affordable Transportation Funding Package – Reduced levy amount and duration
- Successfully supported neighborhoods seeing to improve traffic safety by installing speed cushions.

Environmental protection

- Successfully fought sale by City of significant wildlife habitat (Soundways property)
- Strengthened community participation in proposals to sell City open space

Jobs/Business Growth/Economy

- Opposed employee tax proposed by Mayor
-
- Supported development of small neighborhood businesses
-
- Reduced cost of commercial and residential development in neighborhoods
-
- Supported Reduction of City Light Rates

Highlights of LGBT Accomplishments

- Led City funding of \$75,000 for the first comprehensive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Wellness Center which provides services including HIV/STD testing, cancer screening, general health clinic services, cultural competency training and referrals to other LGBT organizations.
- Led City funding of \$107,000 for a new training program for health and social service providers serving LGBT clients. This new program will be designed to improve mainstream health services by providing culturally competent care to the LGBT community. This program will be modeled after The Rainbow Train, a previous successful effort in the 1990s.
- Secured City funding of \$125,000 for LGBT youth programs and facilities to help insure that this at-risk population is offered appropriate and culturally competent services.
- Led Council support for development of the new King County Jail protocols for transgender, gender variant and intersex inmates.
- Led Council support for the Gay and Bi Men's Sexual Health Conference resulting in community dialog and illumination of the current infection rates HIV/AIDS and other STDs and of the efforts to decrease those rates.
- Vice Chairman of Seattle/King County Board of Health. Initiated development of sub-committee on HIV/AIDS.
- Led Council passage of City policies protecting marriage benefits regardless of sexual orientation.



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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. Yes, I have contributed to County Prosecutor Norm Maeling.

- 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, the 34th district. Yes, King County and State and National Democrats this year and in previous years. Yes, I was a PCO in the 36th district. My precinct has 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?** As a Councilmember I will continue my work for the dignity and independence of senior citizens. I will be a strong advocate for the most vulnerable in our community and I will work to ensure that, as Seattle grows its will be a city of vibrant, safe and thriving neighborhoods that are home to people of all incomes, ages and backgrounds and places of origin. I plan to meet with and mail to as many voters as possible. I have a campaign manager. I believe that the voters will return me to office because of my accomplishments and commitment to getting results. My fundraising goal is \$250,000. I have raised about \$130,000.

- 4. What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?** This question is somewhat unclear as to whether you are seeking one or more issues. There are several pressing issues: 1) The increasing cost of living, particularly housing. Is making it extremely difficult for people to live in Seattle. I will work to develop housing and land-use strategies that encourage affordable housing. I will advocate for livable wages for our workers and I will work to strengthen our programs and services for the most vulnerable who are poor, unemployed or homeless. 2) We continue to be challenged by transportation needs. I will work to improve our streets and bridges and to build more sidewalks and bikeways. I will support the extension public transit service.

- 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.** At this point I do not have an opponent. I will include my record of accomplishments on the extra sheet for your review.

- 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?** Our state tax system is extremely unfair and regressive. I will advocate for changes at the state level when possible and appropriate. I have voted for and worked for lower taxes.

- 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)?** As we grow we must provide more public transit options and services and ensure that we have more parks and open spaces for our communities.



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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, it has worked well. We have wonderful leaders such as Dwight Pelz, Susan Sheary and Ivan Weiss. Why change it?

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

It should ensure quality health care for all.

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 have worked for equal rights for the LGBT community my entire adult life. I support full and equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, parental rights, and the right to marry.

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

I support and have developed utility discount programs for low-income people. I support training and apprenticeship programs.

12. What would you like us to know about you? That I am passionate about public service and I have a proven record of accomplishments that benefit all the people of Seattle.

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

Tom Rasmussen

Date

4/30/2007

Please attach a recent resume.