

46th District Democrats' City Candidates' Forum

May 21, 2009 Format and Questions

City Council Essay Questions

Position 2:

1. What will you do to improve openness and transparency in City government? Do you support creating an open government ombudsman to assist the public with records and open meetings?
2. The “public/private” partnerships idea promoted by the Mayor was endorsed by the City Council in the approval of long term leases of city-owned buildings in Magnuson Park to private, for-profit corporations. What is your position on this issue? Will you vote in favor of similar “partnerships” in the future? If so, what is your justification for doing so?
3. What should Seattle do to protect and restore Puget Sound?

Position 4:

4. What two specific things would you do to have the City collaborate with, and improve, Seattle's Public Schools?
5. How do we catch up on where we should be on our ten year plan to end homelessness?
6. Sidewalks have been promised to North Seattle residents for decades. What can you do to make that happen and to encourage increased walking and bicycling?

Position 6:

7. Please describe two specific priorities you will work towards to make Seattle greener and more sustainable?
8. Tacoma has a free broadband network and Seattle has a large amount of unused fiber capacity belonging to private corporations. What are the pros and cons of sponsoring a similar free broadband network and would you support it?
9. What will you do to reduce youth violence in Seattle?

Position 8:

10. What are the biggest issues facing North Seattle and the 46th District, and what would you do to address them?
11. What is your vision for transit oriented developments at Northgate and serving the rest of North Seattle, and how will you achieve it?
12. North Seattle has had overcrowded schools and faces serious additional overcrowding. How can City reviews and other action help ensure that school seats are available? What is your view of development impact fees on large multifamily housing projects to pay for some costs of additional school capacity?

Extra question

13. There is a tremendous number of empty street retail spaces in storefronts created due to City zoning incentives. What specific steps would you take to assist small businesses and non-profits to fill those spaces in this economic downturn?

City Council Yes / No Questions

1. Are you a resident of the 46th District?

2. Are you a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer or a member of your District Democratic organization?
 3. Have you contributed to a Republican candidate in the past five years?
 4. In the past five years, have you offered comments at a Seattle DPD land use, design review or SEPA hearing?
 5. Do you support requiring that significant trees or groves be preserved and making mitigation promises to preserve or restore trees enforceable?
 6. The decision to implement public campaign financing for Seattle City Council seats and other local elections must be made by the City Council and recommended to be placed on the ballot. Will you budget for and vote for this measure?
 7. Do you support recording the executive sessions of the Council with some independent review of whether executive sessions are in compliance with our Open Public Meetings Law?
 8. Do you support enactment of a living wage in Seattle?
 9. Do you support reinstating requirements that affordable housing built with levy funds serve people at 30% of median income and 50% of median income?
-

Mayoral Candidate Essay Questions

1. What will you do to improve trust, openness and transparency in City government? Do you support creating an open government ombudsman to assist the public with records and open meetings?
2. What is your plan to reduce youth violence in Seattle and what have you done to date?
3. What two specific steps will you take to collaborate with, and improve, Seattle Schools?
4. How do we catch up on where we should be on our ten year plan to end homelessness?
5. How does Seattle ensure that the west end of the 520 Evergreen Point Bridge expansion and other projects do not add thousands of additional cars to North Seattle streets and increase air pollution and decrease sustainability?

Proposed extra question:

6. What two specific steps will you take in the next two years to improve our environment and sustainability in Seattle?

Yes/No Questions for Mayoral Candidates:

1. Are you a resident of the 46th District?
2. Are you a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer or a member of your District Democratic organization?
3. Have you contributed to a Republican candidate in the past five years?
4. Do you support requiring that significant trees or groves be preserved and making mitigation promises to preserve or restore trees enforceable?
5. Will you actively work to fund and implement public campaign financing of Seattle City Council, Mayoral and other local elections in 2011?
6. Do you support enactment of a living wage in Seattle?
7. Do you support reinstating requirements that affordable housing built with levy funds serve people at 30% of median income and 50% of median income?

City Attorney Candidates Essay Questions

1. What should the priorities be for the City Attorney? How do your priorities reflect our Platform?
2. Discuss the merits of the Community Courts program and what you would recommend doing with it? Please also discuss if the City should build a jail.
3. The City Attorney defends city agencies, including when the agencies deny public records or close a meeting. What will you do to improve trust, openness and transparency in City government?
4. When state, federal or local agencies take actions that threaten our environment, quality of life or education, should the City Attorney bring independent actions to protect our interests?

City Attorney Yes / No Questions:

1. Are you a resident of the 46th District?
2. Are you a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer or a member of your District Democratic organization?
3. Have you contributed to a Republican candidate in the past five years?
4. Will you oppose increasing threshold limits for SEPA reviews on development projects?
5. As City Attorney will you take action against agencies or developers who break mitigation commitments, such as preserving or planting trees, or providing neighborhood access?
6. Would you create an open government ombudsman within the City Attorney's Office to assist the public with records and open meetings?