

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Bob Rosenberger
Position sought	King County Assessor
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	37 th Legislative District 2 nd County Council District 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Bob Rosenberger for Assessor
Web page	To be determined
Campaign Email address	“
Manager	“
Campaign mailing address	9686 54 th Ave S. Seattle WA 98118
Campaign phone number	206-856-8125 (temporary)
Campaign FAX	

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

I offer 24 years of experience in the King County Assessor's office, starting as a clerk, and working my way up to appraise thousands of commercial properties including some of the most complex. I have attended numerous conventions, seminars, and classes including Assessment Administration from the International Association of Assessing Officers. I helped found the local chapter (served as president) that twice won Chapter of the Year. I served as shop steward for Teamsters 763 sitting through three contract negotiations. Prior to that, I worked seven years selling residential real estate on the east side.

Although I was born in Germany, I grew up in the south end where my father worked for Boeing suppliers. I have a BA from the University of Washington, and have volunteered for numerous civic groups including Planned Parenthood, ACLU, and neighborhood associations. As an investor and activist, I advocate for progressive policies that foster peace and prosperity.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?
Democratic, Labor, Human Rights, Business

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	X		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	X		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	X		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	X		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		X	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	X		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	X		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?			Minor changes add up!
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	X		

Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		X
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		X

* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer. .

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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 have supported only Democratic candidates.

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 have contributed financially to all levels of the party and to candidates including \$1300 to Obama. I have been a PCO in the 48th, 41st, 5th, and 37th Districts.

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? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

When times are tough, experience counts. That's why we need a professional, and not a politician. Even though I was not expecting to campaign for this office, I pledge to put forward a complete campaign. The current goal is to raise \$60,000 or more.

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

King County government faces a fiscal crisis. Most of the expenses go to the ever increasing justice system. I have the knowledge and experience to judiciously trim the Assessor budget by the requisite amount while protecting its vital role. I pledge to use the office to advocate for tax reform that pays for core services without gouging the taxpayer.

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.

This contest goes straight to the general election. The job itself is technical, and non-partisan. The best person to lead the department would have been Rich Medved who is currently recovering from a stroke. I put myself forward as the next best qualified by education, experience and temperament. The job of the Assessor is to supervise the work of appraisers in order to allocate the tax bill. I respect the often unpopular job done by my former colleagues as they engage in the public's business.

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?

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If I were king of the world, the US would adopt a national Value Added Tax as they have in Europe and Canada. The states would receive a pro-rata share or have exclusive right to levy a flat rate income tax on earnings above \$50,000 with no other exemptions. More realistically, I advocate for property tax reform in the area of exemptions. While we don't do enough to keep fixed income seniors in their homes, every exemption shifts more of the tax burden onto middle class taxpayers, and this has to stop.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing/?

I support accessory dwelling units that meet performance standards as a way to increase density and supply. They are an alternative to Transit Oriented Development that proposes to destroy neighborhoods while "saving" them. Shared housing, co-ops, and greater flexibility in existing urban settings can go a long way toward providing affordable housing. So too can factory built modular units of good design.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I advocate a single payer system to remove the insurance agent standing between me and my doctor.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I support equal rights regardless of sexual orientation or identity. Same sex couples should have the same rights as heterosexual ones.

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

We need shelters that offer food, clothing, and hygiene in a dignified setting. Physical and mental health services along with addiction treatment should be available to all regardless of ability to pay. Job training and placement are the best investment our society can make. Foreign aid should be tailored to directly provide village level solutions to challenges of clean water and education.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Robert M. Rosenberger	Date 8/2/09
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Signature		
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