

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	David Ginsberg
Position sought	Seattle City Council, Position 2
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 th Legislative District 8 th King County Council District 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	I'm definitely a Democrat and a known Democrat. I served as the 34 th LD Captain for the Obama campaign last year and currently serve as the 2 nd Vice Chair of the 34 th LD and as an elected PCO for 34-1485 (High Point).
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	David Ginsberg for Seattle City Council
Web page	www.davidginsberg.org
Campaign Email address	david@davidginsberg.org
Manager	Kimber McCreery
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 9100 Seattle, WA 98109
Campaign phone number	206.979.8338
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 was born and raised here in the Seattle area, attended the University of Washington, finishing up at the University of Southern California with a BA in International Relations. Later I received a joint BA/BS with a focus in Cognitive Science from The Evergreen State College.

Back in 1990 I participated in the founding of the Seattle Greens. 18 years later I was proud to ratify the King County Democratic Platform as a delegate to the King County Convention—this was a document every bit as concerned with the environment and with social justice as the 10 Key Values we adopted back in 1990.

In 1992 I volunteered on Bob Kerrey's Presidential Campaign in Manchester, New Hampshire, and later on the Clinton Campaign. Later in the 1990s I became involved with MoveOn to help push a progressive agenda, and in 2004 I served as Field Organizer Trainer for the Neighbor-to-

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Neighbor campaign.

In my professional life, for the past 6 years I've been employed at Washington Mutual, where my contributions were recognized with nearly annual promotions leading up to the position of Senior Solutions Architect. In this capacity I designed the overall technical solutions and managed diverse global engineering teams implementing those solutions. I gained a reputation for excellence in both design and execution, for building teams that worked by consensus, for making tough data-driven decisions, and for speaking truth to power. These are skills that will serve me well on the City Council. I was offered a career position with JP Morgan Chase, but turned it down because I had heard Barack Obama's call to serve and was already thinking about running for Seattle City Council.

Last year, recognizing the significance of the problems we face as a nation and the unique opportunity presented by Barack Obama I began organizing my precinct on my own initiative prior to the precinct caucuses. We had more than 90 show up to support Obama, and two of the 8 who showed up to support Clinton switched sides after I gave the pro-Obama speech. All of our delegates were awarded to Obama, and I was drafted to fill one of the slots. At the 34th LD Caucus I received the 2nd most votes, and at the 7th CD Caucus I tied for the last slot to Denver and lost on a coin-toss. Undeterred I applied and was accepted to the Obama Organizing Fellows program where I had the opportunity to learn first-hand the organizing techniques of the Obama campaign, which I continued to put to use after the program ended as the 34th LD Captain for the Campaign for Change. I recruited Neighborhood Leaders for more than 80% of our precincts, which I understand was more than any other LD, and voter turnout was 86% on election day. Again, these are skills that will serve me well on the City Council.

I currently serve as the 2nd Vice Chair of the 34th LD Democrats, elected during our December re-org.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	Senator Joe McDermott. 34 th LD Representative Marko Lias, 21 st LD

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?
I will seek the endorsement of each of the Seattle Democratic LDs, as well as all of our local unions, from SEIU to the firefighters to the Teamsters.

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

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

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

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?

I was a founding member of the Seattle Green Party in the 1990s, but am not currently a member of any other party.

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'm a very active member of the 34th LD Democrats. I am an elected PCO (34-1485) and currently serve as the 2nd Vice Chair of the LD. I am a contributing member to my LD, County, State and National Democratic organizations.

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?

Our city government has been mired in process, and has been unable to act on the big problems we face, from transportation to gang violence to affordability these problems have only grown worse over the past decade. It's time for change, and I want to bring results-oriented leadership to help the Council focus on and resolve the big issues we face.

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

First is the economy. To help spur the economy I would start by simplifying the tax code for small businesses. I would expand incentive zoning to help guide developers so that they can help us realize our vision for the future of Seattle. I would also look at partnering with the Small Business Administration and our local Chambers of Commerce to open business incubators. Second is transportation. On this front I would be a strong advocate for a Regional Transit District as is found in most other metropolitan areas of this size, to help ensure that all of our various transportation modes work together as one seamless mesh that works for Seattleites and supports our vision for transit-oriented development. The third is gang violence, and on this front we should accelerate the deployment of additional police to our streets and make sure that we have community policing in place first in those neighborhoods that have been hardest hit. Then I'd bring community, church and business leaders together to work on ways to provide better opportunities for our youth so they don't choose gangs in the first place.

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

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election? Please explain.

This is a "non-partisan" race so it doesn't really apply...I'm pretty sure everyone running will be Democrats and I wouldn't dream of supporting a Republican were any crazy enough to run. In my race so far we have two Democrats running, I'm very active in my LD, and Richard is less so. Whatever happens between now and the filing deadline you can be sure I'll be supporting a Democrat through election day in November.

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?

No, our state's tax system is far too regressive, and our sales tax should be partially or wholly replaced with a progressive income tax so we can fully fund education and social services, and make the transportation investments we'll need to combat climate change.

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

1. Greater supply of housing, built around transit stations, to help ease prices.
2. Implement a living wage so that everyone who lives in Seattle can afford to live in Seattle
3. Work with charitable organizations to provide housing with mental and other services for those who suffer from mental illness.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I believe we ought to have a single-payer system which gives people to choose their doctors, eliminates pre-existing conditions clauses and provides basic health care to all for free or for a greatly reduced cost.


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 absolutely support full marriage equality. My partner and I have 7 year-old twins. I think our family deserves all the rights accorded to straight families, from marriage to parental rights to tax and other benefits.

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

1. Implement a living wage
2. Open city-funded small business incubators and make hiring the economically disadvantaged among us a requirement of participation.
3. Bring community and business leaders together to help find/create pathways (ladders of opportunity) for youth so they have a way out of poverty.

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I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	David Ginsberg	Date
Signature		May 21, 2009