

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	ELIZABETH A. CAMPBELL
Position sought	Mayor of Seattle
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	3826 24 th Avenue W. Seattle, WA 98199
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes/Yes - PCO 36 th District Precinct 1699
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Campbell For Mayor
Web page	www.c4seattlemayor.com
Campaign Email address	info@c4seattlemayor.com
Manager	Keith Ljunghammar
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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 am a dedicated citizen advocate, first and foremost. Whether the issue involves a park, a major city highway, neighborhood planning, homeless housing, public process, or public disclosure, I am a trusted leader and proponent who has spearheaded some of the more difficult issues that face people in my neighborhood and in the Seattle community. I have been a consistent *public voice* in Seattle for those things and for equity, diversity, neighborhoods, government transparency, and government fiscal responsibility.

I was born and raised in, and have been a lifelong resident of Seattle. While here I have seen both the changes and ensuing challenges that have and are facing people living and working here. I am committed to citizen and community advocacy in order to meet the challenges of urban living in Seattle, and committed to my vision that Seattle should have a city government that respects its citizens, that provides the basic civic infrastructure and municipal services, such as police, fire, utilities, transportation, and other city services, in the requisite quantities needed by people, in a timely, judicious, and equitable manner.

As a community advocate I have focused my work and involvement for the last 10 years on Seattle's parks, homeless housing, neighborhood planning, preservation of urban wildlife habitat and urban forests/green space, the Alaskan Way Viaduct issue, historical preservation, and the Port of Seattle's expansion plans at Piers 90 and 91. I have also been active in assisting community groups secure Neighborhood Match Fund grants including for the Friends of Ursula Judkins Viewpoint/Smith Cove group which I chair, and for the City View Neighbors.

I served for three years on the board of trustees for the Magnolia Community Club, one term on the Queen Anne Community Council's board, and was the Magnolia community's representative to the [2004 Central Waterfront Charette](#), to the [2006 Seattle 2100 Green Futures Charette](#), a member of the City of Seattle's [2007 Re-Imagining Seattle's Streets](#) planning committee, of the [2008 Seattle Neighborhood Forum](#), was appointed to King County's [2008-2009 Ballard-Uptown Rapid Ride Advisory Panel](#); and a founder and board member of the Coalition for Effective Transportation Alternatives ([CETA](#)), and of the No Tunnel Alliance.

I currently serves as chair of the [Magnolia Neighborhood Planning Council](#) and [Yes Viaduct!](#) , both organizations which I founded and I am a 4-Year Trustee for the Benevolent Protectorate Order of Elks, Ballard Lodge 827, a charitable organization.

At the University of Washington I am a graduate student; I have been active in promoting transparency in the UW's administration, [protection for the campus landscape and heritage trees](#),

fiscal conservatism in UW operations and capital projects, and I advocate for the rights of and programming for the non-traditional (older) students and students with disabilities who attend the UW. I also have been involved in documentary production, including one documentary which I produced myself [about Ursula Judkins](#), namesake of one of Seattle's viewpoint parks, and also am helping produce another documentary with fellow UW students about my run for the Seattle mayoralship.

I also have been served as an appointed student representative on the UW's Campus Landscape Advisory Committee, I was appointed and served on the UW Faculty Senate Facilities and Plant Committee, and was appointed to two terms as an ASUW Senate Commuter Senator.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

For 25 years I was self employed, first as a developer and owner of nursing homes, retirement homes, and other healthcare facilities in [Idaho](#), Nevada, Arizona, and California, and later on I was in the food manufacturing industry.

Since retiring from business in 1999 I have devoted my time to advocating for children with developmental disabilities, for special education, to community work, to pursuing citizens' rights in government, and working to ensure accountability, transparency, and equity in the City of Seattle and Washington State governments.

I hail from pioneering families in Washington and a long line of citizen advocates (my Populist great great grandfather, [John Rogers](#) was Washington's third governor), I am proud of my family's 118 year old heritage in Washington state. My parents, and my siblings and I grew up in Seattle and attended Seattle Public schools, all in the 36th District, Queen Anne; I graduated from the former Queen Anne High School in 1970.

In 2003 I enrolled at Shoreline Community College through the State's Displaced Homemaker's Program. While there I earned my Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from and then under the State's transfer program, transferred to the University of Washington in 2005. At the UW I earned a double major B.A. in Sociology and Law, Societies and Justice, and a B.A. in History with a minor in American Indian Studies, all by 2007. In 2007 I was also accepted into the [UW Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs](#), where Norm Rice our former mayor, and many other prominent NW elected official's are from. I am in the second year of the Evan's Masters in Public Administration program.

Let me add this also – as a more recent student, I think I bring fresher perspectives about many things, particularly the field I have concentrated in, governance, as a result of going to school later in life. My experience of business first and then school, I think makes me more cutting edge than the other candidates in the race. I have been exposed to more current frameworks and trends in governance, new doctrines and approaches to urban planning and transportation, and I think I am also more aware of many more aspects of social and cultural issues because I am constantly being

exposed and challenged to think about all these things, to learn about them, to come up with plans and ideas about how to deal with these things, to figure out how to apply them in the community work I do.

I have often thought that adults who went to school at a traditional age, very likely did not get the full benefit of that experience because they had no real world experience at that point. Coming to this education at a much later age with life experience gives me a much more unique perspective on how to apply it and the lessons learned are more current and more in my consciousness than they would be if I had done all this almost 40 years ago.

For all intents and purposes I have lived a non-traditional adult life, including being one of Seattle’s first female, union carpenters in the early 70’s, I have worked for many years first in construction trades, and then at the time as one of very few women who developed and built healthcare facilities. I have advocated for women’s roles in non-traditional settings all my life; I have lived my life in such a way that I could be a role model for other women, to inspire them to do and be involved in things that are/were typically not considered things that women should be associated with. I am proud of the little bit of trails that I have blazed for women, not to mention the example I set for my own daughter and now for my two granddaughters.

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?

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?	X		X
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.

* I have outstanding tax warrants filed by the State of Washington against me for a business that I was an officer and employee of. I dispute that I owe those taxes, thus I decline to pay them. The State's process in these matters is to file the warrants and the only way an individual can then protest them is to pay them first and then go through the administrative and legal processes to challenge them.

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?

Independent Candidate – Supported – Ross Perot
Green Party Candidate – Supported – Ralph Nader

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, Yes, Current PCO and Past PCO for 36th District 1699 Precinct

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?

What are the main messages of your campaign?

That I believe that the people are the foundation of government, and so government's greatest obligation is to ensure the inalienable rights of those who have consented to be government, that government should acknowledge the advise and consent role that citizens have in government.

What is your campaign plan:

How many

- doors have you knocked on to date? Residential – zero People, approximately 30
- pieces of mail planned? Nominal Amount
- Budgeting? \$15,000 overall budget
- Staffing? individuals – manager, scheduler, correspondence handler, and an advisory board.

What is the fundraising goal for your campaign?

\$15,000

How much have you raised to date?

\$3,000 including contributions and in-kind – for two plus weeks of effort to date.

Why will you win?

I will if my messages and the things that I stand for resonate with the voters, requiring that my message and person achieve a sufficient amount of exposure.

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

The loss of the portals to the Viaduct, the loss of convenient and expeditious ability to travel south on SR 99; development of multi-family and in-fill housing units in Ballard, Queen Anne, Greenwood; rezoning of Interbay, Port of Seattle's plans to develop the Fisherman's Terminal area, and the plans of SDOT and Metro that will further disrupt transportation throughout the 36th District.

If elected – I will nullify the agreement to build a tunnel to replace the Viaduct; will reorganize the Parks, Department of Neighborhoods, SDOT, Office of Housing departments, hire a new executive urban planner; and I will remodel and reconfigure City Hall so that it becomes the people’s place rather than the empty fortress it is now.

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 chose to run for mayor in part because I was appalled at the shallow-ness of engagement in, the lack of broad understanding and experience that all the candidates at the time had with civic affairs – seriously – from Mallahan, to Donaldson, to Sigler, to McGinn – each and every one of them had close to zero understanding of what had gone on in this City, what was going on, and consequently their initial and most of their subsequent commentary demonstrates to me that they have not spent any discernible time with civic matters. They have had to spend a large amount of their time learning about what is going on, finding out what they should talk about, what are the issues in Seattle. The things they say are problems, the solutions they offer – you can tell they either don’t have a good civic memory or history with the City government, or have been coached on what to think and say.

I am their polar opposite – I have a number of major civic issues I have been engaged with, and years long experience with certain issues. I have a broader understanding of the history and workings of the City of Seattle government, by education and training I am familiar with the institution, I am a student of government, not in the literal sense but by avocation, my intent in terms of running for office has been something I have worked towards for many years, not something that I on a lark decided, oh I want to be mayor.

Therefore, maybe a couple of them can claim to be great business-men, but that to me is not a selling point as to why they should be in government and elected. In fact I think that is close to the worst reason to elect them, as I believe they will apply their business inclinations, to be self serving, to themselves and to business interests and special interests. I would prefer an ideologically oriented candidate, one that has a demonstrable commitment to and broad record of putting people, neighborhoods, social needs, and cultural exigencies first, in values and in deed – I consider myself that.

I am not so naïve to think that these rosy ideals exist, and if we just apply them things will be great – I know there are hardcore people and interests that work to ensure that they remain in power, that live lives that thrive on cynicism and political manipulation. You will just have to take my word for it – time doesn’t allow greater elaboration – but I am not a babe in the woods. I can have my ideals and ideology, I will not depart from them, however that doesn’t mean that I can’t hold my own were push to come to shove.

In the end, outside of myself, the only person I would vote and/or support would be Jan Drago – not because I think she is the next best candidate – far from it, but she is the least of the worst. She does have the experience, and I would only hope that should she ascend to being mayor, that she would be transformed, , that she would change what I believe is a very opportunistic attitude and see a bigger picture and a greater good that she has the responsibility to ensure and lead over. Her record leaves a great deal of doubt that she would do so, but I would prefer her over the rest of the crop of mayoral candidates, (Nickels excepted*) that are ill-informed and have no demonstrable record of any great commitment to public service.

* Nickels excepted in that he has the record and commitment, but I consider his opportunity is squandered and past.

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?

How would I change these things – In the interest of getting this questionnaire out I am not going to provide as much detail here – but will say this – the governments in question, and the City in particular – it “generates” funds quite well – it is in the priorities of what the funds are spent on – that is the problem. I do not think we need a State income tax, I object to the tax breaks incessantly given to business, I object to the priorities of much of what the money gets spent on, I object to the mismanagement of our government that has resulted in it being hijacked by business, and consequently too much of the revenue government takes in is plowed into the very businesses and sectors that should be contributing more towards the cost of government, not benefitting from government.

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

Homelessness:

First it must be necessary to consider this premise of “ending homelessness”, and a certain reality brought to the table about this premise. That plan will never be fully realized, the more realistic goal is to reduce homelessness to the greatest extent possible, through preventative and actual means. Society cannot save every individual from whatever eventualities in their lives occur, but it can ameliorate or intervene when possible to lessen impacts, those that are more extreme to the individual and those that society is also impacted by when an individual’s life goes into decline.

I think it is an unfortunate mantra in the first place, I know many politicians and acolytes of this idea utter it and it sounds all well and good, but it is not a promise that can be fulfilled. The reality is that homelessness in one form or fashion has been with humankind always. Anyone that would utter such a promise, I believe, is either being disingenuous or naïve.

There is a certain panache connected to “working against homelessness” as well as it has become industrialized, professionalized, there are “homelessness workers” and whole businesses (they are called “non-profits” but in essence they rely upon and operate in the same model as business, seeking revenues and “profits” that ensure they can stay in whatever public sector business they operating in), that benefit from providing homelessness services and housing. The problem I have with these organizations and related groups that work on social problems, is that literally hundreds of millions of dollars are going to them, with little discernable difference being made in eliminating in this instance, homelessness.

Either one of two things is happening, either the rolls of homelessness are ever burgeoning, growing populations of the homeless are exceeding the growth of the population in general, or the programs, services, units they are providing are inefficient or insufficient. And on that latter note however, this shortage of housing units/beds should not be as great as it is given the sort of money that has gone into this social problem category.

I’m sure some would say that not enough money is available to build all the housing necessary, but as a former contractor, I would say that something is wrong. Not every building built needs to meet or exceed these really high-end standards of building that government insists must be met for any housing structure it sponsors. That includes the materials and methods used to construct them, the labor used to build them, the locales where they must be sited, and the amenities that must be included in them. There are multiple ways to bring about lower cost housing facilities, even including the repurposing of existing buildings, or the use of semi-permanent structures to meet needs. How silly indeed to insist that we must have the Taj Mahal only, and until we have that no one gets housing; why is it the standard response in these cases, if we cannot achieve the former, then “everyone” will just have to live in a tent in the open and take their chances with the elements?

I propose that the expenditure of government funds, be they levies or general budget appropriations, be to in large part to have constrained administrative expenditures, and go more directly towards actually ending homelessness by literally providing housing – beds, units, homes, apartments – and in multiple forms of construction, including semi-permanent and permanent structures and compounds.

In the instance of the City of Seattle, much ado has been made about two homelessness matters this year – tent cities and the homeless housing at Fort Lawton. To me, all the hew and outcry by both sides – the pro-homeless and the City, have been a lot of malarkey. We live in an incredibly rich city, both the City part of it and the general city part of it. This idea that the best we can come up with – and that is the City and the homeless advocates - is a bunch of what, maybe \$30 tents for people to “live” in, with a barbeque for a stove, a couple of porta-potties, cold water through a hose, a few ice chests to put food in, with the balance of food on the ground in plastic bags, that is the height of wrong-headed thinking and an abrogation of our obligation to provide for others in need.

The City has literally spent millions of dollars creating its assorted plans for the city, putting endless meetings and spending hundreds of thousands on consultants, and printing up propaganda to push any number of its projects and agendas, and then turns around and cries poverty when it comes to putting actual dollars into actual improvements in town; and when it is not doing that, it likewise pumps millions into contracts with non-profits and consultants to those non-profits, so they in turn can do much the same thing with the money they receive, in large part putting on a show about how they are helping their chosen constituency. In the case of the homeless, in one year the City commits \$40 Million towards ending homelessness; this is a large amount of money that should be making more of a difference in the level of homelessness in Seattle; something is wrong. Instead we are making little difference. As mayor, this would not continue. I will expect accountability for the money the City puts up, and ensure that at least half of it goes to housing people; I have pledged to establish 100 units of housing for the homeless within my first year in office.

Low Income and Affordable Housing:

Much the same thing occurs in this category as does with the homeless; we have large amounts of money that are set aside to subsidize or provide housing but little to show for it. When the City is not directly funding these types of housing it makes bargains with developers – you put in a little bit of “affordable” housing, and we’ll give you any number of breaks. Problem is it is too little too late, and these deals provide marginal amounts of housing for any needy population.

The second part of the problem, is the City of Seattle’s land use policies are the problem, and no one is talking about this. The City has encouraged in-fill development, dense development, large amounts of vertical construction, all things which do two things, quickly soak up the land that is available, maximize it in such a way that it requires that users and/or buyers of the units built pay more than what low income and even middle income individuals can afford to pay.

The land use policies along with our transportation policies have driven up the cost of the housing, living in the city. The claim is that this sea-change in Seattle’s neighborhood areas will lead to more people living closer to where they work and need to shop etc., that they will use public transportation in greater numbers, things will be affordable, particularly without cars, is not true. The fact of the matter is the density and growth in this city have pushed out the lower echelons of our society, only the more well off can afford to stay, and the subsidy that is going towards public transportation, that is only nominally used, is money that would be better spent on more important things – like subsidizing housing.

I do not support the growth at all costs policies of the mayor, I do not support the idea that we must grow and grow and that we are saving the region from sprawl, and lowering our carbon footprint, or

that greenhouse gases are being reduced. The things being done in the name of these ideals are directly robbing the poor and low income people of any chance of gaining home ownership, of being upwardly mobile, of being able to partake in the many benefits that a wealthy society such as ours has to offer.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Having been in the healthcare business – I tell people this – I didn't know any poor people in the healthcare business. My family was big into nursing homes – they were and are some of the wealthiest people I know. From my perspective where healthcare took a wrong turn, it was in mergers and acquisitions, and in the breaking of its covenant with the public, to not unduly profit at their expense. Healthcare goods and services were exceptional, they should be provided on the basis that they were necessary to the health and lives of people, and as a consequence the providers of such should not unduly benefit from the healthcare goods and services that they make or provide.

Instead what has happened, monopolistic tendencies within the healthcare fields have been helped along by Congress and other factions in government, socially and politically healthcare providers have been allowed to operate as if they are any other for-profit business – profit is king, and through these and other tactics healthcare is now barely seen to have its Hippocratic dimension - it is all about using people's critical need for healthcare services and products to their disadvantage, in order to enrich those who produce and provide healthcare.

The government has pricing and supply power over every aspect of the healthcare industry, and yet it has been very parsimonious with exercising its regulatory power. Sure – the government's efforts to ensure product and service safety are in evidence, but forget about any economic regulation.

The horse is out of the gate as they say, the cure isn't in subsidizing escalating healthcare premiums and continuing to condone skyrocketing costs for drugs and cures, it is about re-establishing the covenant that the healthcare industry should have with the public, about price controls, about disavowing drug-makers that their greater obligation is to their stockholders, and about expanding healthcare programs, such as Basic Health (I am on Basic Health), rather than dreaming up ways to cut people from its rolls.

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?

All are or should be protected classes, and I am not against equal rights for same-sex couples, the same as those for heterosexual couples. Life is too short to make these strict distinctions among people and their living/romantic relationships. Rather than dwelling on the minutiae of social pairings, why not welcome and embrace people as fellow humans, support them in their endeavors, and make life less difficult for them? In the end, there are far greater social issues than this matter, not in the sense that I am saying this is not an important issue, only that the people that want to disrupt and discourage the rights of the groups at issue here would do better to spend the time obstructing these individuals' lives on issues of much greater impact and magnitude – such as a war in Iraq that has and continues to bankrupt our economy.

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

My great great grandfather had a saying that is inscribed on his statue in Olympia and on his gravestone, "I would make it impossible for the covetous and avaricious to utterly impoverish the poor. The rich can take care of themselves." Those sentiments have come down through the generations to me, they are my sentiments also.

Government has become organized for the wealthy and special interests. It is overrun with consultants that direct government employees and officials to make decisions and pursue agendas that benefit private enterprise, and by extension the more well-off portions of our society.

The first thing necessary to help the disadvantaged, economically or otherwise, is to quit wasting taxpayer money on projects, consultants, propaganda campaigns, that have very little direct benefit to those with the greatest need, to reverse the 80's and 90's privatization and outsourcing of government functions that went on, to set City agendas that will lead to more employment opportunities through public works projects, in the government sector, and in the private sector, by demanding that employers make affirmative hiring decisions, that if they receive government contracts, there are set asides for businesses and individuals who are typically excluded from these jobs.

I am not an enemy of business, I was in business myself, but truth be told, I was not granted great privileges. In the developments I did I paid the cost of the development, onsite and off; I was like most small businesses now-a-days – struggling to make ends meet. However the business I am against is the ones that are given government largesse, in the form of contracts, incentives, subsidies of all kinds, preferential treatment, and they just get bigger and bigger, and provide little to no benefit to the lower half our society; and in the same vein, displace or marginalize those who are most vulnerable.

If you come to think of me in no other way, and come to your conclusion about me as to what kind of mayor I would be – it would be that I am a person of my word, that I hate inequity, that I am for the “common” man, woman, child, that I do not believe government is in place to be the master of all, but to serve and provide for the general welfare of the citizens, and to do those things which help people realize their dreams and their better selves, a better life. We are not a poor country, even in an economic downturn we are a wealthy nation and city; there is no excuse that more people overall shouldn't be benefitting from such a circumstance.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Elizabeth A. Campbell	Date
Signature		June 5, 2009