

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Greg Nickels
Position sought	Mayor of Seattle
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 th Legislative District, 7 th Congressional District, King County Council District 8
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes and yes.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Neighbors for Nickels
Web page	www.gregnickels.com
Campaign Email address	info@gregnickels.com
Manager	Viet Shelton
Campaign mailing address	3413 38 th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126
Campaign phone number	(206) 428-6054
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 graduated from Seattle Prep in 1973 and attended the UW. President of the Washington State Young Democrats from 1976-77. As a teen ager, I was a full-time volunteer on the campaign of Jim McDermott (1972) and an intern in the DC office of Senator Warren Magnuson (1974). I served as Legislative Assistant to Seattle City Councilmember Norm Rice for eight years, beginning in 1979.

In 1987, I was elected King County Councilmember (D-8) at the age of 32, then the youngest person ever to hold that office. I served three and a half terms before being elected Mayor of Seattle in 2001.

This June I will be elected as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I am the current chair of the Sound Transit board. I've served as chair of the King County Board of Health

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from 1996–2001 and chaired the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board. I am also a member of the 34th District Democrats, am on the advisory council of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and have served as campaign co-chair of the last two school district levy and bond measures.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	I have currently received the endorsement of the 11 th District Democrats.
Union Endorsement	AFSCME Council 2, UFCW Local 21, International Aerospace Machinists Local 751, Pacific Northwest Carpenters, Laborers Local 440
Municipal League	I am currently in the process of scheduling a time to interview with the Municipal League
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	King County Conservation Voters. My campaign has received over 1,000 contributions from many in the business, civic, labor and environmental community.

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I plan to seek the endorsement of Seattle's many civic, neighborhood, labor, environmental, Democratic and business organizations.

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

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

* 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 am a proud member of the Democratic Party. I have never given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race.

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?

I began my affiliation with the Democratic Party when I was sixteen, the same age I became hooked on local politics. I was president of the Washington State Young Democrats from 1976-77. I am a dues paying member of the 34th legislative district Democrats.

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?

I am running because I want to make a difference in people's lives.

We are in the midst of difficult economic times and we need to make the right decisions to ensure we come out stronger on the other side. Even though the statistics say we are one of the safest big cities in America, there are still communities in Seattle that don't feel safe. I want to help put people to work right away on projects that invest in our infrastructure such as light rail, replacing the viaduct and repairing our roads and bridges. I want to ensure that when the economic recovery happens, our community is poised to take advantage of it and create good jobs like we were able to do after I assumed office in 2002 in the midst of a deep recession and a city budget crisis. I have the experience and the record to keep Seattle moving forward over the next four years.

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I have worked throughout my time in office to strike a balance between the competing priorities and diverse communities in our city. I have worked to focus on the basics and emphasize on ensuring that Seattle will remain a great place to live and work for decades to come.

I've raised approximately \$340,000 to date, which will be used to communicate my message. My campaign's budget is approximately \$600,000. Philosophically, I believe in campaigns that take their message to the voters where they are. We will be running a robust field campaign that will begin this summer. As with my past campaigns, I hope for and expect a significant grassroots campaign that will energize and empower union members, neighborhood, civic, and environmental leaders to volunteer their time, effort, and expertise to my re-election effort. My campaign has a volunteer database of several hundred volunteers.

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

I set four priorities when I became Mayor:

- Get Seattle Moving.
- Keep our Neighborhoods Safe.
- Create Jobs and Economic Opportunity for All
- Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities.

We have made significant progress on all of these fronts. We've made progress with transportation lately, developing a tunnel solution for replacing the viaduct, expanding light rail, paving our roads. Crime is at a 40-year low, but often increases during economic crisis.

I plan on continuing my "Neighborhood Policing Plan," which puts officers where they're needed. I proposed \$8 million to stop youth violence before it escalates by seeking out young people most at risk of perpetuating violence or becoming victims: repeat offenders, those who have been arrested and released, truants, students suspended for violent acts, and victims of violence who may think about retaliating.

On job creation, we have made great strides investing in our neighborhoods like Northgate, the U-district, the Rainier Valley, Broadway and developing South Lake Union into a biotech and high tech hub. Our neighborhoods are open for business.

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And we have invested in ending homelessness and providing affordable housing, keeping Pike Place Market vital, and improving education through the Families and Education levy.

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 am the candidate who has the proven track record and experience to be Mayor and get things done.

For twenty-one years, I've fought for a modern light-rail system for Seattle and surrounding areas of King County. This July 18th, the first line will open. We have finally found a solution to Alaskan Way Viaduct which will dramatically improve Seattle's waterfront.

When George W. Bush refused to sign onto the Kyoto Protocol, I responded to the void of national leadership by launching the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, challenging other mayors to join my pledge of meeting and beating the Kyoto Protocol standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Today, over 900 mayors representing more than 84 million people have signed on. In Seattle, we're doubling our electric conservation efforts, expanding our urban forests, building a green fleet (including plug-in hybrids,) protecting our waterways from polluters, distributing over one million energy efficient light bulbs, and encouraging residents and businesses to get involved to do their part. Just recently, I launched my Green Buildings Capital Initiative, designed to create jobs and make it more affordable through a loan program for citizens to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient.

I have worked to protect our industrial lands which support one quarter of Seattle's jobs, providing family wages and economic diversity in a challenging global economy. I created and funded a position within the Department of Executive Administration that did not exist previously to monitor and enforce social equity contract requirements.

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?

I believe our current tax structure is regressive, unfair and needs reform. The sales tax is regressive and disproportionately affects middle and lower income households. I would be

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open to a more progressive system such as an income tax as long as it's paired with a reduction in the sales tax.

The current set of fees and revenue sources available for transit is flawed as well. Today there is no significant dedicated source of revenue for transit in our state. The last few transit measures we've passed have been sales tax increases, which is the only tool the state legislature has given our region. I would be a proponent of funding our transit's region with user based fees such as regional tolling.

The state's B&O tax is also flawed in that it taxes gross receipts and not profits, hurting our small businesses.

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

The City of Seattle was a founding member of the ten year plan to end homelessness, with me having a seat at the table. During my time as Mayor, we have adopted an approach called "Housing First" to make a genuine attempt to break the cycle of homelessness. It provides the chronically homeless with a safe, secure place to live with the health and treatment services they need to start getting better. It is not only more humane, it is more effective. Overall, in 2009 Seattle will spend about \$40 million to help the homeless – more than all other cities in the state combined.

I have also proposed a renewal of the Seattle Housing Levy this fall. The levy, since it began in 1981 has created about 10,000 units of housing for low income individuals and our homeless. It is a critical part of Seattle's effort to help our least fortunate and provide affordable housing for all.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I believe our nation's healthcare system is in need of urgent reform. I am a strong advocate for a system that provides incentives for preventative care, which I believe will end up saving tax payers money. This means making sure everyone has access to a doctor or health clinic and doesn't have to turn to the hospital or emergency room for one hundred percent of their healthcare needs. I believe in a system that focuses not just on reducing the cost of care, but improving access.

Locally, City government traditionally plays only a minor role in our healthcare system. Seattle funds and supports community clinics across the city for the low-income and least

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fortunate. These clinics are important because they serve people who would traditionally turn to emergency rooms for all of their healthcare needs or forego treatment entirely. I believe clinics like ours have a strong role to play in a reformed system.

I believe our nation is in a position where urgent reform is possible. I firmly hope that the plan that put forward includes a public option that can compete with private insurers. I am prepared to be a strong partner to the federal government and the Obama administration should they succeed in getting a Healthcare bill worthy of this great nation passed. I am both hopeful and confident that they will.

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 believe that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Americans should be afforded the same rights as everyone else, including the right to marry. Since the City of Seattle does not issue marriage licenses, as Mayor I do not have that much authority regarding marriage. But I have done what I can. In 2004, I proposed legislation and signed an executive order that would recognize and honor the same-sex marriages issued in other parts of the country here in Seattle.

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

As we go through this economic downturn, I am committed to making sure Seattle is in a position to take advantage of the eventual recovery. That means making investments now to make us the center of the new green economy. The industries of the future will be both be profitable but also help us solve the climate crisis we're in. The green jobs created will require both engineers and skilled tradespeople. Buildings will need to be retrofitted, new clean energy technologies will need to be manufactured. We need to be making sure our well established institutions that are doing a good job training people in the construction trades or industrial sectors are getting ready to train a workforce that can take advantage of these new, good paying, family wage jobs.

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

Printed Name		Date
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Signature		

Addendum:

In 2001, the campaign was fined \$30 for reporting a commissioned poll 3 days late.

In 2005, the campaign was fined \$30 for reporting an expense late.

In 2005, the SEEC ruled that the printing and distributing of a “Mayor’s accomplishments piece” was in violation of Seattle ethics and elections code. The campaign paid the City of Seattle \$2,205 for reimbursement of printing and postage expenses of the piece. There was no fine.