

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Jordan Royer
Position sought	Seattle City Council, Position 8
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th Legislative District, 1 st King County Council District, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	I am a Democrat. I am known as a Democrat.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Jordan Royer for City Council
Web page	www.jordanroyer.com
Campaign Email address	Jordan@jordanroyer.com
Manager	Sam Christensen, sam@jordanroyer.com
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 9100, Seattle, WA 98109
Campaign phone number	(206) 877-3164
Campaign FAX	(206) 323-0738

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 qualified to be on the Seattle City Council because of my extensive community, governmental, and private sector experience. I am asking for your endorsement because of my work in the Party in both California and Washington State.

After graduating from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Comparative History of Ideas, I moved to San Francisco and began volunteering for United States Senator Barbara Boxer. After volunteering for 9 months, I was hired to help her constituents navigate the bureaucracies of the IRS, SBA, FEMA, and others. Following the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, I worked in the Disaster Application Centers (DACs) helping people who had lost their homes, possessions -- and in some cases family and friends -- get back on their feet. Because of this experience, I became the disaster response expert on staff and worked on recovery from floods in Northern California and fires in the south. This experience ingrained in me the importance of having a government that works for the people. To this day, I have a great admiration for James Lee Witt, the FEMA Director under President Clinton. I believe the Katrina disaster would have gone very differently had he been in charge.

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In 1998, I was the Northern California Field Director for Senator Boxer's re-election campaign. Again, I learned the lesson that passionate people can accomplish great things. It was a difficult campaign but in the end we were able to turn the tide on the 1994 gains by the Republicans.

In 1999, my wife and I moved back to Seattle with our first daughter to raise a family. We were lucky to find a great neighborhood to start our family - Cedar Park in the Lake City area. We worked with the neighborhood to build a park using the Neighborhood Matching Fund from the Department of Neighborhoods. My wife and I also spearheaded an effort to get speed bumps in the area to slow traffic. Many doubted that it could be done, but after 2 years of petitions, traffic studies, and fundraisers in the park, we made it happen. There is no power like the power of community!

I also worked in the Mayor Paul Schell administration in the Department of Neighborhoods working with communities to solve chronic public safety problems. In many instances I had to coordinate departments from city, county and state governments. Later, I did the same work in the Greg Nickels administration.

One example is my work to clean up the Beacon Hill greenbelt known as the "jungle." This was a difficult problem to solve because there were vulnerable homeless populations that were being used by some involved in criminal enterprises. The people who lived near the greenbelt were experiencing break-ins, rampant drug crime and prostitution. People living in the greenbelt were being assaulted and intimidated.

Because I know firsthand the importance of building community to solve problems, the first thing I did is get the neighborhood together to define the problem and map out solutions. We created a plan that was approved by the community and went into action. I personally walked the greenbelt with the media, Real Change News, homeless service providers, and city staff. We all agreed that we needed to help the people living there and stop the crime. We accomplished our goals and the community began environmental restoration of the area.

There are many other examples of this kind of teamwork that I will bring to council. Whether it's working with homeless youth on Capitol Hill or the U District, helping families in South Delridge understand what to do to prevent their children from becoming involved in gangs, or making sure rental properties are safe and clean, I have always believed that the power behind any success is the community. Without that involvement, we cannot succeed.

I also created a group called the Special Emphasis Housing Group that was formed to address issues related to hoarding and obsessive compulsive disorder. I assembled experts in the field as well as counselors from Adult Protective Services, King County, and other departments. The goal was to help people who were isolated and dying in their homes while their neighbors wondered what was happening. We had some great successes helping people get the treatment they needed and the program became a national model.

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In my current job, I advocate for the maritime economy in Washington State. Over the past few years, I have gotten to know the maritime community and have enjoyed learning about the importance of our ports to our economy. In Seattle alone, a Port of Seattle study showed that there are 35 to 40 thousand direct jobs generated from the maritime trades. The average salary is \$65,000. These are good union, middle class jobs that help build our city and help us maintain diverse neighborhoods. I have great relationships with port staff and commissioners and will continue to build on that partnership as a member of the City Council.

I am confident that my experience is unique in this race and puts me in a position to add insider government knowledge to the council, as well as an “on-the-ground” understanding of how policies made at City Hall affect our community and city staff given the charge to help solve problems. I am first and foremost a problem solver.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	Still in decision making process in my race
Union Endorsement	Still in decision making process in my race
Municipal League	Still in decision making process in my race
SEAMEC	Still in decision making process in my race
Other Endorsements	Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, Rep. Scott White, Jason Bennett, Chair of the 36 th District Democrats is my consultant.

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		
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.

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 not been a PCO. I did walk precincts for Obama and Gregoire in the 46th.

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 was born and raised here and want my own children to raise their families here some day. Sadly, our city is quickly becoming unaffordable, congested and plagued by rising crime. I am running to be your next Seattle City Council member because the current City Council doesn't have a vision for preserving and enhancing our quality of life while keeping Seattle livable and safe. **I have the experience, the common sense, and the leadership to change direction at City Hall.**

Our goal is to raise \$200,000 for the entire election season, an adjusted amount based on the tough economy and number of candidates running for Seattle City Council this year. We have raised nearly \$70,000 toward that goal so far.

We intend to doorbell nearly 28,660 households before the end of the campaign between the candidate and volunteers. We will have a better idea on the mail piece and other direct voter contact as we get closer to mid-July.

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

The most pressing issue for Seattle is how to get our economy moving again. My industry is in a deep crisis and it shows in shift losses for ILWU at the port as well as the other businesses that depend on that activity. My friends in the restaurant business are also hurting right now and facing possible layoffs. The most important thing the City of Seattle can do right now is get the infrastructure projects moving while easing the tax burdens on small businesses.

Affordability will also continue to be a huge problem for Seattle. We need to build more housing and make it easier for a number of different housing types to be built. I support the Housing Levy because we need direct subsidies for low income housing and I support providing tax credits for developers who build workforce housing. This will also help us target growth in the urban area and help us protect and restore Puget Sound as well as the rural and wild landscapes that we all treasure.

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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.

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?

The State of Washington needs to restructure the tax system. I support a state income tax only if it is part of a larger package that reduces the sales tax and restructures the B&O tax. The B&O tax should at a minimum be on net receipts not gross. The sales tax is regressive and hurts poor people the most. The people of Washington State will continue to turn back any efforts to implement an income tax unless it is part of a broader package that brings relief to small businesses and average people.

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

I am a big supporter of the Ten Year Plan. I am endorsed by Bill Hobson, Rick Friedhoff, and Bill Block because they know I understand the plan and will focus my efforts on strategies to help it succeed. Seattle is out in front of other jurisdictions on the plan. We continuously support our Housing Levy and have built innovative projects like the DESC's Pre-Recovery Housing at 1811 Eastlake. Some call it "wet housing" because residents are allowed to consume alcohol in their rooms. But the fact remains that this project has saved the taxpayers of Seattle and King County millions and provided safety and warmth for late stage street alcoholics who are extremely ill. It is the compassionate thing to do and the smart thing to do.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I believe we should have a national system. Unfortunately, the national system we currently have is the emergency room – expensive and inefficient. Government exists to help us all take care of the less fortunate. We need to continue to fund community healthcare clinics until such time as we get a real national system.

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 gay marriage.

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

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All people want to be able to take care of themselves. As a society, we need to help people get the means to succeed. Public education, libraries, and summer jobs programs for young people are all very important tools we can use to expand opportunities. I will also pursue linking maritime job opportunities to at-risk kids. We need to look at ways that we can link our resources to those that need them most.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Jordan Royer	Date June 5 th , 2009
Signature		