

King County Democrats 2008 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Lloyd Hara
Position sought	King County Assessor
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	36 th Legislative District, County Council District 4, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	I am a Democrat, and have been known as a Democrat since the Kennedy administration. I ran statewide for Treasurer as a Democrat. I am active in Democratic campaigns. Democratic President Bill Clinton appointed me to a federal agency position, after I served as Vice Chair of his state campaign. I have a history of presenting myself as a Democrat in campaigns for nonpartisan office such as City Treasurer and Port Commissioner, and even in appearances at Republican gatherings. (I currently hold the nonpartisan elected position of Port Commissioner.)
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Citizens for Hara
Web page	LloydHara.com
Campaign Email address	CitizensForHara@comcast.net
Manager	
Campaign mailing address	466 Smith St., Seattle WA 98109
Campaign phone number	(206) 726-8053
Campaign FAX	(206) 281-9094

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
I hold a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Economics from the UW (where I finished all but dissertation for a Doctorate in Political Science.)
I have an extensive record of leadership and innovation in public office and community service, with continuing focus on public finance and performance improvement.
As new college grad, I answered John F Kennedy's call to <i>"ask what you can do for your country"</i> . I led a 228-person company as a 2 nd Lt. in Korea, served as Post Subsistence Officer at Fort Lewis, and continued in Army Reserves through retirement with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

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I worked as Fiscal Analyst for the Washington House (where my Senate counterpart was Mike Lowry), and for the Executive branch Central Budget Agency under Gov. Dan Evans, where I played lead roles in budget process innovations at the dawn of the mainframe era.

At age 29 I was appointed King County Auditor to fill the unexpired term following an abrupt resignation. Seattle voters elected me four times as City Treasurer. A newly-elected President Clinton appointed me Regional Director of FEMA. As adjunct faculty in Seattle University's Institute for Public Service, I led the Northwest Municipal Clerks Institute and the Northwest Municipal Treasurers Institute.

In 2005, King County voters elected me to the Commission of the Port of Seattle -- an organization that had grown complacent after 15 years with no change in leadership. An ingrained "business as usual" culture covered questionable habits and misplaced loyalties. I probed Port conduct that turned out to be unproductive in some cases and highly improper in others. My work at the Port demonstrates the value of a fresh look by an experienced leader and manager.

As a taxpayer's champion, I fought to reduce the Port property tax levy - and succeeded two years out of three.

On several occasions I have received national acclaim for new approaches to old problems, and for pioneering work on public sector performance audits. These honors include the Municipal Treasurers Assoc. of US and Canada's highest award (I also served a term as MTA national president); the Gov't. Financial Officers Assoc.'s Award of Excellence in Cash Management; the Assoc. of Gov't. Accountants' Distinguished Leadership Award; *City and State* magazine's national honors as a "Most Valuable Public Official"; the American Society for Public Administration's Public Services Award for Achievement; and the Federal Joint Financial Improvement Program's Financial Management Improvement Award.

My wife Liz and I operate a small business, and I have served on boards of the Puget Sound Blood Center, Boy Scouts, Seattle Library Foundation, a local hospital, Evergreen State College Advisory Board, American Red Cross, the Economic Opportunity Center, the Puget Sound Economic Development District, the South King County Opportunity Development District, and the Trade Development Alliance.

I also founded or co-founded the National League of Cities' Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials caucus, the North Seattle Community College Foundation, the Columbia Club of Seattle senior services program, and the International District Rotary Club (first chapter on the planet to grant women official membership), and served as President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Seattle Chapter.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	<p>None current.</p> <p>In 2005, KCDCC, KC Young D's, MDC, and LD's 1, 5, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 48 endorsed Hara for Port Commission.</p>
Union Endorsement	2005 (for Port) – Teamsters Joint Council 28, ILWU Local 52, Carpenters Local 1797, King County Police Officers Guild
Municipal League	2005 (for Port) – "Adequate".
SEAMEC	2005 (For Port) – straight "A"s/"5" rating.
Other Endorsements	<p>Our first week's endorsements for Assessor include Speaker Frank Chopp, Representatives Chase, Hasegawa and Hudgins, Senators Hobbs, Kauffman, Kline and Shin, Carpenters Local 1797, Firefighters Local 1257, current/former Port Commissioners Block, Creighton, Fisker and Tarleton, City Council Members Bruce Harrell, Kathy Keene, Nick Licata, Janet Way, Susan White, Mayor Cindy Ryu, candidates Rob Holland, Robert Rosencrantz, and former elected officials Dawn Mason, Mike Todd, Kip Tokuda and Ralph Munro.</p> <p>See the website (www.lloydhara.com) for the full current list.</p> <p>2009 early endorsements <u>for Port</u> further included Gary Locke, Mike Lowry, John Spellman, Brian Sonntag, Tom Carr, Shay Schual Berke, Reuven Carlyle, Phyllis Kenney, Tina Orwall, Dave Upthegrove, Chris Marr, Ken Jacobsen, Fred Jarrett, Joe McDermott, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Ken Jacobsen, Chris Marr, Joe McDermott, Bob Ferguson, Larry Phillips, Dow Constantine, Fred Jarrett, Tom Rasmussen and Jan Drago.</p> <p>2005 endorsements <u>for Port</u> further included the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter, Equal Rights Washington, Seattle Times, Seattle Weekly, The Stranger, Al Rosellini, Maggie Fimia, Dolores Sibonga, Velma Veloria, Richard Conlin, David Della, Larry Gossett, Al O'Brien, Eric Pettigrew, Sharon Tomiko Santos, Peter Steinbrueck, Pat Thibaudeau, plus primary opponents Peter Coates and Christopher Cain.</p>

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

King County Democrats and Republicans; all King Co. Legislative District organizations (both major parties); editorial boards and a wide range of civic organizations.

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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

* Penalized for late PDC filings on 2005 post-election activity and a 21-day pre-election window violation in connection with a spousal loan.

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 never joined any other party, but I contributed \$50 to a longtime friend, Republican Norm Maleng, when he ran unopposed for County Prosecutor in 2002.

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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 am a member of the 36th District Democrats, and served as PCO, but not recently. I contribute and support KCDCC fundraising events year after year, and have contributed to state and national party organizations as well. I served as Vice Chair, Washington for Clinton-Gore 1992.

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?

Just as at the Port, we can't stand pat. A healthy organization listens to its critics, inside and out, and never stops looking for ways to improve.

In this year's unprecedented real estate market, last year's answers are not good enough.

Taxpayers deserve a fair shake from a public official they have learned to trust.

Campaign plans and budgets are formative, with filing dates and opponents unknown. Most of the \$50,000 we had raised for the Port race will transfer to the Assessor contest, and major fundraising activity is still ahead. Our county-wide campaign will rely on selective mailings, an active web presence, diverse endorsements, grassroots activism, and shoe-leather support from party organizations to get our message out.

Hara maintains a deep reservoir of good will among grassroots voters of all stripes. (As an underdog on Election Day 2005, he surprised the "smart money" with record vote totals and a 58% share.)

Voters will put their trust in Lloyd's reputation for straight talk, his commitment to transparency, his credentials as a reformer, his willingness to question "business as usual", his track record as a leader in times of change, and his concern for taxpayers.

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

The economy is in crisis. Many of our neighbors are out of work, and their home loans are under water. Fair valuations and trust in the process are more important than ever.

As an independent-minded public interest watchdog who has studied, taught and practiced public finance at expert level, I am ready to lead a cycle of renewal in the Department of Assessment.

As a public servant with a solid reputation for transparency and straight talk, I am ready to represent the Department most effectively to a deeply distressed taxpaying public.

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.

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This position of Assessor is nonpartisan, and it appears there will be no Primary – just a winner-take-all General Election.

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 tax structure is not fair. Our state probably has the most regressive tax structure in the country.

The Assessor has limited influence, but the office can play a positive role in assisting and educating both local officials and the general public.

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

I have demonstrated a strong commitment to social justice throughout my public life. Today's disordered economy has produced spikes in both distressed people and distressed properties.

The Assessor may not have a hand on the levers of public policy, BUT the office contains a great storehouse of detailed information on developments in the housing market. This is resource could be used to facilitate the efforts of entrepreneurs, policymakers, banks and non-bank funding agencies, university researchers, developers and realtors to understand the situation and match occupants to vacancies.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Government must ensure public health and safety. I favor universal health care coverage, and would support greater government involvement to meet this goal.

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 people should be treated fairly and equally in all aspects of public life. The GBLT community deserves the same full civil rights protections as everyone else. I support equal benefits, civil unions, parental rights, and marriage for same sex couples. My oldest daughter and her partner had a civil union in Vermont and consider themselves lifelong partners.

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

Voters of the state's largest county elect the King County Assessor, independent of all other governing bodies. The successful candidate wins a bully pulpit, and can wield the moral authority of the office to speak up for tax justice and related reforms.

By the same token, the Assessor's conduct has an impact on taxpayer attitudes. As we know all too well, dissatisfied taxpayers can express their resentments in ways that create obstacles to progressive public policy.

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

Printed Name	Lloyd Hara	Date June 3, 2009
Signature		