

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Martin Henry Kaplan
Position sought	Seattle City Council, Position 6
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	Queen Anne Hill, 36 th Legislative District, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes, I am a democrat
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	MHK for Seattle
Web page	www.mhkforseattle.com
Campaign Email address	info@mhkforseattle.com
Manager	Dan Joyner
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 9727, Seattle WA 98109
Campaign phone number	206-284-4400
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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.

My family has lived and worked in our community for over a century and I want my daughter and eventually her family to call Seattle home as well. I was raised in a middle class home and I understand the challenges facing working families and what it means to have a city where families of all income levels can live, work, and thrive.

As an architect, I've owned a local business for more than 30 years --- putting the civic ideals of Seattle into action by designing, building and supporting projects that promote energy efficiency enhance the character and quality of our neighborhoods and downtown, respect historical reference, and provide the foundations of a truly sustainable community.

I believe that serving our community involves understanding and working well with many diverse constituencies. I have a strong commitment to understanding and contributing to the critical components that compose a city structure; as a strong advocate of the arts, I've served on the board

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of the American Institute of Architects and the Intiman theatre board, served on community councils (currently on the Queen Anne Community Council), I've worked as an advocate of historical preservation as a two term 6 year commissioner on the Pike Place Historical Commission (2 years as Chair), and my greatest honor as a public servant has been as a steward of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan with the Seattle Planning Commission, advising the Mayor and the City Council on many of the most critical issues determining the future success of our city.

*Please see included CV for details on educational background and other community service.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	In process
Union Endorsement	In process
Municipal League	In Process
SEAMEC	In process
Other Endorsements	A number of sitting City Council members will be publicly supporting me later on in the campaign along with many other prominent Seattleites, organizations, and diverse constituencies.

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

King County Democrats and local legislative district groups, King County Conservation Voters, Alki Foundation, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Seattle Association, IAFF Local 27, Teamsters Joint Council 28, UA Local 32, Building Trades, Laborers Local 242, Machinists Lodge 751, Cascade Bicycle Club, Friends of Seattle, The Municipal League, Longshoreman local 19, Sierra Club, social services organizations, business groups, and other organizations in Seattle.

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		x

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	regulation?		
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		x

* 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 not a member of another political party. I have never given money to 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 am currently a member of the 36th LD democrats. I have paid dues but am not a PCO.

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?

Main Messages:

Endless hand wringing and second guessing is keeping Seattle from realizing our incredible potential. We deserve inspired leadership, sensible action, and responsible investment within a reasonable time horizon. We have huge issues to tackle now --- and we remain without the luxury of decades for debate.

Beginning my community service in 1971 when I joined architect Victor Steinbrueck to save the Pike Place Market, I have turned my ideals in actions including winning the first American Institute of Architects NW Energy in Design Award honoring a solar home I designed on Queen Anne Hill in 1981; before any of us were talking about 'green,' 'sustainability,' or 'global warming.'

We are facing unprecedented challenges to our economy and downtown vitality, our neighborhood character, and our cherished quality of life. I have been working on these issues throughout my 30 year career in Seattle as an architect, business owner, and committed community leader.

On the Council, we need decision makers who are unafraid of tackling old problems and new opportunities with innovative 21st century solutions, and who work with others to discover and advance the very best solutions --- free from personal and political agendas.

For years I have worked collaboratively to make smart decisions that move our city forward --- preserving what is best about our character but recognizing the need to sensibly grow and change.

I am driven by a strong commitment and feeling of personal obligation to help Seattle diversify, prosper and grow responsibly. I want our city to be a regional and worldwide hub for business and a place for families of all incomes to call home --- today and when my daughter grows up.

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Campaign Plan:

I have a personal list of over 500 friends and colleagues who will provide the initial financial support. As a native Seattleite, I plan to reach out to the many communities and constituencies with whom I have worked in the past for support including professional networks, community leaders and our 38 neighborhoods, Commercial and Business constituents, and commission, arts, and many other points of contact including family and friends.

My field plan begins in the neighborhoods, where I have worked for years to protect and preserve the character, affordability, and quality of our communities --- including parks, open spaces, neighborhood business districts, appropriate and sensitive design standards, and other amenities.

I will leverage longtime contacts and recruit volunteers to conduct door to door canvassing and phone banking of key voters and precincts, attend community events, and make sure that not only am I campaigning, but that I am constantly listening and learning about diverse critical issues related to Seattle so that I can best represent the entire city.

I am working with Christian Sinderman of Northwest Passages consulting group to develop and advance my campaign strategy and plan. In addition, I have recently hired an extraordinary campaign manager, Dan Joyner, and Colby Underwood as my fundraiser to help complete our winning team.

Fundraising:

I will raise at least \$270,000 to earn my seat on the City Council and as of May 26th have raised over \$40,000.

Why will I win?

Like I related above, I began my civic commitment to Seattle by working with Victor Steinbrueck in 1971 to save the market and have consistently worked hard ever since to help my community live up to its promise. I possess unique and unequalled experience to serve our City on our City Council: I have run a very successful business for over 30 years, have worked collaboratively with City Hall, Neighborhoods, advocates for preservation, business owners and community residents, environmental advocacy groups, the arts community, affordable housing proponents, and supporters of region wide transit investment and improvement. Among other very important qualifications, my work on the Historical Commission, many city Stakeholders groups, Community Councils, and most recently as a Seattle Planning Commissioner where I co-Chair our Land Use and Transportation Committee, has afforded me over the decades the unique opportunity to connect with our entire city and learn about our challenges first hand. And in so doing, I have been afforded the special opportunity to help lead critical conversations that have influenced our maturation.

Therefore I am the best candidate to tackle the challenges facing our city. Seattle needs Elected Officials who can understand all the issues replete with nuance; work and collaborate transparently with diverse constituencies, and move our city forward with decisive, positive, and experienced confidence.

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

The issues that face Seattle are well known. They include building our economy, strengthening our commitments to our neighborhoods, and planning for efficient transportation choices for all of Seattle. I understand the critical interdependence between the health of our city's economy and the opportunities for investments in our neighborhoods, downtown, and multi-modal transportation choices

My first priority would align with providing incentives to attract and retain business in Seattle. We have lost 1000's of jobs and important businesses to the suburbs and we must halt that exodus. I will carefully review new taxes like the head tax and square footage tax that create disincentives for businesses. I will revise our city's 'one-size-fits-all' policies towards zoning that limits our opportunities to attract new business, retain business, attract family wage jobs, and inspire new affordable housing opportunities. And I will invest in our neighborhood business districts and industrial lands so that they can grow and better contribute to our economic engine.

Neighborhoods are the heart and soul of our community. As a board member of the Queen Anne Community Council and Land Use/Planning Committee, I have intimately participated in the relationship between city hall and our community. There must be a much larger commitment of empowerment considering a much closer working relationship based upon trust and action. I view the city as a 360 degree whole, deserving and receiving similar steadfast commitments from city hall. On our Council, I will be a much stronger advocate in Seattle and Olympia for excellent schools, strong public safety and healthy open space.

We must advance a comprehensive transportation strategy and integrate and better manage all our transportation opportunities. I will seek solutions that connect our neighborhoods with reliable and efficient sustainable transit linkages, leveraging these opportunities to promote an increase in bike, pedestrian, and transit choices. As Co-Chair of the Planning Commission's Land Use and Transportation Committee, I have been working during the last 5 years to analyze and advance new transportation opportunities in advising the Mayor and City Council—and I plan to continue to seriously use my deep experience in planning responsibly for our future without delay.

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.

As I mentioned earlier, I have the most diverse background and body of relevant experience of any of the candidates running for position 6 on the City Council. Since 1971 I have been involved in civic service and I get things done! As an architect and a past member and leader on many boards and commissions, I have enjoyed decades of successfully collaborating with other diverse constituencies to accomplish big goals, bringing people together and planning for our future. I am a planner, a collaborator, and can lead in taking decisive action. As a member of the city council I will join with others to advance our issues as a city-wide public servant, not beholden to any personal or political agenda.

My work, especially during the last five years on the Seattle Planning Commission advising the Mayor and City Council on dozens of critical issues facing our city, has afforded me both an intimate working knowledge

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of critical issues and challenges facing our city, but more importantly a 360 degree vision of our opportunities and feasible solutions moving forward. I bring to the table over 30 years of active involvement in a myriad of Seattle issues, including among others business health, neighborhood involvement, and transportation opportunities.

This race is non-partisan.

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?

Our state is consistently challenged financially and we place most of our ability to raise tax revenue in a regressive sales tax. We also have recently instituted new taxes locally on small businesses through a head tax and a square footage tax which create disincentives for small business to locate and grow in Seattle.

The idea that an income tax could solve many of our problems by providing a consistent income stream for the state has been suggested and deserves further study. As Seattle is losing thousands of jobs and businesses to the 6 suburban cities surrounding our borders, we must aggressively address the root of this economic loss and investigate incentives that will attract and retain business in Seattle.

I believe that our city can better address incentivizing business by doing all we can to prevent businesses from leaving. If that means providing better benefits and tax considerations to a company like Korry Electronics when they want to relocate inside Seattle with 1000 family wage jobs instead of moving to Snohomish County for a better deal, then we must act aggressively to solidify agreements that benefit all of us.

I also favor tolling both I-90 and I-520 bridges now to raise revenue for the 520 bridge replacement.

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

I think the city needs to take a more active role in cultivating relationships with conscientious builders and investors to make sure that low-income housing not only grows but is protected from gentrification. On the Seattle Planning Commission I helped author our Affordable Housing Action Agenda and Incentive Zoning Whitepaper; both addressing critical issues surrounding our goal to reduce homelessness.

We must provide realistic incentives to developers to create housing choices that are affordable in the city. Today the city has implemented a 'one-size-fits-all' incentive zoning policy that will hardly provide any additional affordable housing units because it is too onerous and does not recognize strategic market conditions. I favor a much more nuanced approach throughout the city. Because of my deep and unique experience as an architect, planner on the planning Commission, and committed community leader, I will bring people with desire and commitment together and forge relationships that benefit everyone. Only in that way will we achieve a diverse housing mix in numbers that really matter.

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What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I am in favor of the single taxpayer system and universal health care. We are one of a small minority of developed counties which do not have a universal health care system. The fact that a person who cannot afford insurance or who is chronically ill will have to forgo medical treatment because of a lack of coverage is appalling in our otherwise civilized society.

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 same sex couples should have all the rights afforded to heterosexual couples and that civil rights are universal amongst human beings, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

First we need to pass the Housing Levy.

Since I believe that we must strengthen our education commitment, as a councilmember I will more strongly advocate in Seattle and Olympia for excellent schools in Seattle. We must retain and attract families to our neighborhoods-truly the heart and soul of our city and the foundation of our economic base. In addition I think that we need to advance a strong focus upon vocational skills (or ensuring that those programs are not cut) and access to running start programs in the community and technical colleges.

We should grow smartly. On the Planning Commission I have helped lead efforts our city's commitment to Neighborhood Planning and leveraging our transit hubs to provide robust, reliable, and cost effective transportation solutions and promote sustainable communities and reduce the dependency upon the automobile - a critical component of addressing the problems of the economically disadvantaged.

We must protect family wage jobs, and provide incentives to create new businesses in our industrial zones that support our future manufacturing and industrial sector and support affordable and workforce housing. Our one-size-fits-all policy concerning industrial lands has allowed us to miss incredible opportunities to create new 21st century family wage jobs.

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

Printed Name	Martin Henry Kaplan	Date
Signature		5/28/09