

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Max Vekich
Position sought	Port of Seattle Commission, Position #4
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	2830 SW Raymond #201, SSeattle, WA 98126 34TH LD, County Council 8, CD 7.
<b>Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?</b>	YES! Member 34th LD Demos. Four term Democratic State Representative 1982-91. Four terms (non-consecutive) WA State Democratic Central Committee. Three time DNC National Delegate. DEMO PCO 1972-1980. Work through my union, ILWU, to elect Democrats.
<b>Campaign Information</b>	
Campaign Name	Friends of Max Vekich
Web page	www.max4ourport.com
Campaign Email address	<a href="mailto:kenyon@nwpcconsulting.com">kenyon@nwpcconsulting.com</a>
Manager	Kenyon Foxworthy
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 19511, Seattle WA 98109
Campaign phone number	206-658-3514
Campaign FAX	206-322-6108

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 Washington native, 4<sup>th</sup> generation and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation waterfront worker; in Washington State Legislature 1983 - 1991.

### Activism:

My primary activism has been political activism through the Democratic party and through my union the ILWU.

- I was elected by co-workers to represent Puget Sound on the International Executive Board (ILWU) and served from 2003 to 2009.
- During the buildup to the Iraq war, the Bush administration tried to break the ILWU by using the National Guard to load ships. As part of a rank and file committee of the ILWU, I was the sole

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

union testifier allowed in Congress to speak against those efforts by the Bush administration. We prevailed.

- Since 2000 have been on the ILWU Legislation Action Committee which has helped elect Labor-friendly Democrats nationwide.
- 2004 – Kerry volunteer in Nevada and Oregon with the AFL-CIO Labor to Neighbor campaign.
- 2008 – Obama volunteer in Oregon with the AFL-CIO Labor to Neighbor campaign.
- Active with Jobs with Justice May Day Rally against the War, one day strike, No Peace – No Work. Shut down entire West Coast shipping operations (2008).

## Legislature:

1980 – Democratic Nominee Washington State Senate 19<sup>th</sup> LD (age 26)

1982 – 1991 Elected State Representative from the 35<sup>th</sup> LD

I chaired three committees Commerce and Labor, Trade and Economic Development, and Agriculture.

**Highlights:** HB 2222 (Farm worker unemployment compensation, Restriction of child field labor on school days, pesticide protection for workers and residents, and labor standards for farm workers). P-I reporter Mike Layton called it “the best piece of work done in a long time.” I served on the Puget Sound Cleanup Committee (1988). Helped enact the Growth Management Act and I was from rural Washington. Sponsored First Steps – the Well Baby, Well Mother Act, for successful birth outcomes and 20 years later thousands of families have benefitted from it. Helped enact the first organic and kosher food bills (truth in advertising).

## Civic Achievements:

Founded and secured funding for the building of the Tall Ship LADY WASHINGTON which serves as a flagship for the state, which summered on the Seattle waterfront, and sails all over the west coast showing the Washington State flag. (1986–1988)

Bremerton waterfront revitalization – secured funding for USS TURNER JOY Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (1990)

## Education:

**University of Puget Sound**, B.A. in Political Science, 1976 Vice President of Washington Young Democrats, 1976

**Grays Harbor Community College**, A.A., 1974 Student Body President, 1973–1974 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Aberdeen High School**, 1972 All Southwest Washington Conference Football; Editor school newspaper; Youth Lieutenant Governor YMCA Youth Legislature (1972)

## Employment:

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

<input type="checkbox"/> 2004 to Present	Supercargo, Marine Clerk, ILWU Local 52 Seattle, WA  Washington State Registered Lobbyist, Grays Harbors Bar-Pilots Association Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/> 1994	Lobbyist Washington State Dairy Federation, Darigold, Olympia, WA
<input type="checkbox"/> 1991	State Representative, Washington State Legislature  Longshoreman, ILWU Local 24, Aberdeen, WA
<input type="checkbox"/> 1983-1991	President, ILWU Local 24 (2001-2004)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1979-2004	College student, casual longshoreman
<input type="checkbox"/> 1972-1978	

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	I am seeking all legislative district endorsements
Union Endorsement	ILWU Local 52, others pending
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?
---

Democrats, environmental groups, labor (Teamsters, ILWU), progressives, social activists. League of Women Voters, Municipal League, Metropolitan Democratic Club; all County and LD organizations in King County.

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?		

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

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

\* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

In eight years in office and eight Legislative campaigns I had two late filing fines. My responsibility.

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 am a member of the Kicking 34th District Democrats. Past member of the 43rd LD Democrats (2004-2006); Grays Harbor Democrats (1972-1996, State Committeeman nonconsecutive terms 1976-1980, PCO 1972 - 1980, 1991-1993 19th LD State Committeeman); 35th LD (1980-1982 State Committeeman); Kitsap Demos (1982-1991). I have contributed to the 34th LD Democrats, WSDCC, SDCC, and DCCC.

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?

The main message of the campaign is that the Port has an important role to play in protecting jobs and creating economic growth but also has to deal with it's shortcomings as an organization and push for positive change throughout the region.

I'm a little late getting into this race but I will win because I will work tirelessly to communicate our message, whether it be though targeted doorbelling, mailings, radio and print advertisement, or working with unions and local democratic organizations to get the message out. I plan to raise \$200,000.

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

## Jobs

Like the President, I'm all for a new green deal. The Port should be prepared to partner and lead in this new opportunity. The Port is THE job engine for this region. It is our regional stimulus. Will we be ready? We need to maintain our industrial lands and base where the jobs grow. Preserve our fishing and international trade jobs. Elevate a thriving maritime sector to emphasize the family-wage worker and not the usual suspects.

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

## Oversight/Accountability

Provide direction for the Port in a public-minded way and move away from the good old boy culture. Insider influence needs to be eliminated. Lack of transparency only leads to more erosion of the public confidence. Tough questions always need to be asked. Public campaign funding needs to be explored. Staff needs direction to implement policies in the public interest. As a former state legislator and chairman of three committees that had oversight over state agencies, I bring that experience to ensure the bureaucracy does what the public asks and pays for. The Port needs to remember that it works for us. And it's my job to remind them.

## Green

Climate change is going to affect our Port's future. We need to meet the challenges of climate change. Reducing smoke stack gas levels, plugging ships into the grid (cold-ironing), need to be more than token actions. These remedies need to be expanded to all our marine terminals. Truck traffic into the Port should be non-polluting, energy-efficient, and not endanger the health of drivers or the neighborhoods they traverse or the waters that we live and work on. Noise pollution from the third runway shouldn't perpetuate jet ghettos. The Port has a responsibility to make it right.

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.

Eight years as a Democratic legislator, a team player and leader in Olympia. I've seen the heavy-hand of government when it sides with employers at the bargaining table which my brothers and sisters were able to successfully overcome regarding the PMA-ILWU contract bargaining in 2002. Every day I wake up, I'm trade unionist. Every day I wake up, I'm a Democrat.

No, but I know of no other Democrats in this race.

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?

Tax reform has to start with the legislature and the Governor. When I was a legislator, I took the tough votes and voted for the revenue and the taxes when the republicans had sunset them all and they left the state in a fiscal crisis in 1983.

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

Let's all work for a solution to avoid Hooverilles.

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I marched in the Health Care Rally MAY 30th, 2009. I support single-payer and a Medicare for all approach but at the least a public option has to be included. I served on the Healthcare Committee when I was in office and voted for the first Basic Health Act (Jim McDermott).

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?

As a State Legislator, in a conservative district (LD 35), I voted for equal rights and against discrimination based on sexual orientation. I support equal rights for all.

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

A green new deal, vocational schools, apprenticeships, unionize truck drivers.

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

Printed Name		Date
Signature		