

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Rich Medved
Position sought	King County Assessor
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 <sup>th</sup> LD 8 <sup>th</sup> 7th
<b>Are you a Democrat?</b> <b>Are you known as a Democrat?</b>	Yes I have been actively engaged in Democratic campaigns since the early 1980's beginning with Senator Scoop Jackson and going on to Congressman Al Swift, Governor Booth Gardner, Maria Cantwell, and many legislative seats in Olympia as well as numerous local county government campaigns.
Campaign Name	Rich Medved for King County Assessor
Web page	Richmedvedforassessor.com
Campaign Email address	richmedvedforassessor@hotmail.com
Manager	Bob Rosenberger
Campaign mailing address	2700 Fourth Avenue, Suite 301 Seattle, WA 98121
Campaign phone number	206-335-6919 (personal cell phone) 206-354-1844 (campaign phone)
Campaign FAX	N/A

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.
<p>I have been the Chief Deputy Assessor for King County for the past 6 years. I understand the detailed nuances of the very technical work that is performed by that department in a very complex environment. I have a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington to go with my extensive qualifications and experience. The King County Department of Assessments is nationally recognized as being a leader in the industry. Just last September of 2008 the Department received a Distinguished Service Award for Property Tax Administration from the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), the equivalent of an Oscar, as further proof of this department's excellence. I have been an annual national speaker since 2004 at IAAO functions regarding excellence in property tax and assessments</p>

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excellence and am known around the state and the nation as a leader in assessing operations.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	33 <sup>rd</sup> LD dual endorsement
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	Seattle City Council member Jean Godden, State Representative Dave Quall, former Washington State Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge, former King County Assessor Ruthe Ridder, current King County Assessor Scott Noble, Leslie A. March, Jan Davies– former King County Chief Deputy Assessor and former King County Tax Advisor, Bob Rosenberger, Cathy Allen, Dave and Lynn Gering, Snohomish County Assessor Cindy Portman, Lewis County Assessor Dianne Dorey, Klickitat County Assessor Van Vandenberg, Thurston County Assessor Patricia Costello, Cowlitz County Assessor Terry Mclaughlin, Island County Assessor Dave Mattens, Adams County Assessor Dave Anderson, Sue Lahti–37 <sup>th</sup> LD PCO, Hoang Nguyen and numerous individuals

**Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?**  
 Unions, Municipal League, SEAMEC, newspapers, statewide assessors, Legislative districts, KCDCC, Rental Housing Association, Realtors, as well as others.

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		

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10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	X		
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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.

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 and 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, 34<sup>th</sup> LD. Yes KCDCC. No

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 Department of Assessments performs technical work in a complex environment. That fact is amplified in today's economy. This means that the next Assessor should be both qualified and experienced. I am the only candidate who can make both claims.

Since this candidacy resulted from the sudden announcement by the current Assessor to resign, thus creating the vacancy, I am just now putting together my campaign details. I do, however, intend to speak to as many groups within King County as possible and relate to them the extreme need for consistency to remain in the Assessor's office.

I will win because I am the best individual to serve the citizens of King County as Assessor, I will work hard during the campaign and I intend to earn the most support.

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

Managing a complex agency during a critical time of the economy, especially as it relates to fairly valuing property and to managing a budget shortfall. The Department is locally and nationally recognized for its

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excellence in professionally, fairly and equitably performing its duties for the citizens of King County. I intend to keep the top rated staff currently in the Department together and to continue with our exemplary past practices.

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.

For the past several years I have been given the authority to put together a topnotch Department of Assessments team and to run an exemplary model respected by tax assessors' nation wide. Just in the past few weeks the Philadelphia Inquirer has used the King County Department of Assessments as an example of good, professional assessment practices. I have been allowed to build the best team quietly and without fanfare. Now I am ready, willing and able to continue leading this tested and stable organization with all of the competence that we are know for throughout the country.

This is a non-partisan race so there will be no Democratic candidate.

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?

No. I believe that the legislature needs to seriously examine two issues at it relates to property taxes:

1. Truth in taxation as it relates to how ballot issues are worded. Citizens should know what it is they are voting for and how much it will cost them.
2. Exemptions review needs to be examined to ensure that those critical programs remain active and those that do not serve the general good are cleaned up.

There is too much confusion regarding property taxes today. People are confused and angry about their property tax bill. They do not receive fully accurate information. For example, the Port of Seattle has raised their tax levy by over \$13 million from 2006 until today, an increase of over 20%, yet most voters and taxpayers are not aware of this fact. I would work to bring transparency to taxpayers.

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

N/A

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

N/A

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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?

Equality under the law for all citizens, including full and equal marriage rights, regardless of sexual orientation. No discrimination.

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

Full review of the 103 property tax exemption programs to ensure that invalid or non-equitable property tax exemptions do not exist to shift the tax burden to that portion of the population that can least afford them.

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

Printed Name		Date
Signature		