

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Tom Carr
Position sought	Seattle City Attorney (incumbent)
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 th LD, 8 th County Council District, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes; I served as a 34 th District officer, including Vice Chair and other positions. I have served on the steering committees of Democratic officials and candidates.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Tom Carr for City Attorney
Web page	www.tomcarrforcityattorney.com
Campaign Email address	tomcarrforcityattorney@comcast.net
Manager	Cindi Laws
Campaign mailing address	5358 Admiral Way SW, Seattle WA 98116
Campaign phone number	206-354-9966
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.

Raised in a one bedroom, rent-controlled apartment shared with 5 others in the Bronx, Thomas Aquinas Carr rose to be an Assistant US Attorney in New York before moving to Seattle in 1991 and becoming a partner in a downtown law firm. Carr, a former board member of Legal Services for the Homeless and homeless women's shelter volunteer, ran for city attorney in 2001 for special reasons: "To help make people's lives better, especially those who need our help the most" declared Carr.

Carr was a partner with the downtown Seattle law firm, Barrett Gilman & Ziker. He has 25 years of litigation experience in commercial, environmental and other complex cases. He represented several of the largest businesses in the State of Washington, while also helping individuals and small businesses as well. A former member of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, Carr practiced extensively in Courts throughout Washington. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Carr specialized in organized crime cases while also handling a wide range of civil matters similar to those managed by the Seattle City Attorney.

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Politically experienced, Carr lost a 1994 legislative race to Rep. Georgette Valle – first elected in 1964 – by just 371 votes. A Democrat, Carr has been active in the 34th District Democratic organization and was a vice chair while handling numerous committee assignments and campaign roles.

Carr was known for his two-year term as an early **Chair of the Elevated Transportation Company**, the Seattle Public Development Authority charged with building an expanded monorail. He guided that body through the difficult period after enactment of Initiative 41 in 1997 through the passage of the second monorail initiative in November 2000. He was **one of the proponents of second monorail initiative** (which was approved by 57% of Seattle's voters), and acting in a pro bono basis successfully sued to have it placed on the ballot.

Carr was active in Metro's planning efforts. In the early 90's, he helped Metro draft its 6-year transportation plan for bus service. He also was a member of the Metro Southwest Sounding Board, revising bus service in Southwest King County. He was a member of the Metro Transportation Advisory Committee, a citizens group that brings riders concerns to the attention of Metro's management.

Tom Carr was raised in a poor family in the ethnically and racially diverse borough of the Bronx, New York. After winning a scholarship to St. John's University, he worked full time to put himself through New York Law School at night, graduating magna cum laude, editing the law review, and winning "Best Oralist" honors. **The brother of a developmentally disabled man**, Carr has worked with the King County Parent Coalition to advocate for better care for the developmentally disabled and he served on the King County Board for the Developmentally Disabled. "The City Attorney affects people's lives in many ways. I will continue to use my compassion and my legal expertise to improve justice for the poor, the ill, and the abused, to benefit all of the people of Seattle," said Carr.

Tom has served Seattle as its City Attorney since 2001, when was elected by a 2-1 margin. Tom is one of the founders of the Seattle Municipal Community Court. Community Court started as an effort to more effectively address low level crimes in Seattle. **57% of Community Court defendants were homeless and 55% reported chemical dependency.** Community Court provides these defendants with a means to address their problems and give back to the community. Defendants who chose to participate are given access to social services and required to do community service rather than go to jail. Community Court has helped more than 2,500 defendants who have performed thousands of community service hours.

Recognizing that prostitutes are in a vicious cycle of victimization, Tom Carr also developed a program that makes Johns pay for counseling and treatment of prostitutes, the majority of whom suffered rape or sex abuse as children. And while City Attorney, Tom came up with a novel approach to Seattle's 2nd-in the nation level of car theft. By 2008, Tom's efforts helped reduce car theft by more than 60% in the City.

Importantly, Tom's compassionate and pragmatic approach have dropped Seattle's share of the King County Jail population from a daily average of 409 in 2001 to just 254 in 2008, leaving jail space available for truly dangerous and violent offenders, including Domestic Violence perpetrators. Tom has been one of the early leaders in helping Seattle reduce the need for a new jail.

Carr lives in West Seattle with his wife of twenty years and two boys ages fifteen and twelve. He is active in community affairs and coaches youth sports.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	Endorsement process underway
Union Endorsement	Pacific Northwest Council of Carpenters; other endorsements underway
Municipal League	Rating system underway
SEAMEC	Rating system underway
Other Endorsements	Gov. Al Rosellini, former Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge, Sen. Adam Kline, Representative Roger Goodman and Representative Phyllis Kenney and a lengthy list available on our website, including many prominent members of the Seattle legal community.

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I am working actively to secure the endorsement of all interested labor and political organizations.

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

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* 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

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, yes, yes, 34th District

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?

As City Attorney, I have been effective and saved taxpayers' money while expanding more humane justice to those in our community who need compassion, not criminal treatment.

My campaign is run by a professional and very experienced campaign manager, with guidance from an exemplary steering committee. Our budget and fundraising strategies will be aggressive and meet the needs for a comprehensive mail program that will supplement community connections.

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

The current economic situation has severely restricted available funds for a "housing first" approach to homelessness, not to mention chemical dependency treatment. When our community cannot help the least, the last, and lost, the City Attorney must find innovative methods to find justice for those who commit "quality of life" and "annoyance" crimes that can hurt neighborhoods and business districts. Although Seattle's crime rate is at a 40 year low, there remains a general sense of fear in our community. We have a growing gang problem and a looming jail crisis. I have a clear record of finding innovative solutions to public safety problems., resulting in my receiving the National District Attorney's Association's "Iceberg" award for leadership, and our Community Court being selected by the federal government as one of three national "mentor courts."

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.

N/A

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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?

Washington is well known for its regressive tax system. Our reliance on sales tax is punitive on the poorest among us. Meanwhile many of our state's most prominent and vocal billionaires have cried out for major reform that would tax their income and wealth. The fact remains that the middle class does not trust comprehensive tax reform, while continuing to pass levy after levy.

Given the situation, I will continue to support local levies so that our schools, parks, and housing opportunities will thrive.

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

I have been a strong supporter of housing first as a public safety measure, as is evidenced by my February 15, 2007, Seattle Times column entitled "Fight Crime, Addiction with Housing." We need to put "housing first" as a major priority. Programs like the 1811 Eastlake apartments – a compassionate and effective solution for chronic alcoholics – save the City and County millions of dollars every year, while improving the lives of the people sheltered. I am a member of the Inter-Agency Council of the Committee to End Homelessness, where I have worked hard to implement the ten year plan. I also helped design an innovative City of Seattle program called CO-STARS. Through this program, the City of Seattle was able to use jail money saved by the Community Court (which I also helped found) to create a program that provides housing and full wrap around services to the neediest individuals in the criminal justice system.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Health care is a basic human right. In my job, every day I see individuals whose lives would be saved with affordable health care including but not limited to treatment on demand. It is a tragedy that the best country in the world does not do a better job with health care. I support universal access to health care.

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?

Civil rights know no bounds, nor borders. My office worked aggressively to give the City of Seattle the tools to recognize the marriages of any couple married in another jurisdiction. I am a strong supporter of the right of people to love the people they want to love.

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

Many of those I come in contact with on a daily basis suffer first from homelessness and then from chemical dependency. That's not to say that all economically disadvantaged people are chemically dependent, but it is a

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major impact on the Office of City Attorney. We must provide treatment, and follow it up with encouragement.

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that we attract and maintain high-quality jobs in manufacturing, industry, technology, and other industries that offer a livable wage. When families have adequate income, they benefit our communities and further strengthen our economy, repeating an advantageous cycle.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Tom Carr	Date
Signature	<i>Tom Carr</i> electronic	5/7/2009