

# King County Democrats

## 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	David Bloom
Position sought	Seattle City Council Position Four
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District King County District 2 Congressional District 7
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes
<b>Campaign Information</b>	
Campaign Name	Citizens For David Bloom
Web page	<a href="http://www.bloomforcouncil.org">www.bloomforcouncil.org</a>
Campaign Email address	<a href="mailto:info@bloomforcouncil.org">info@bloomforcouncil.org</a>
Manager	Noah Burgher
Campaign mailing address	3822 42nd Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105
Campaign phone number	(206) 453-5626
Campaign FAX	N/A

### Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience

I have been active in Seattle issues for over 30 years as a minister, community organizer, and social justice advocate. I was deputy director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle for nearly 20 years where I led the Council's urban programs, focusing on preserving and increasing low-income housing, providing shelter for those who are homeless, working for social change, and advocating for human rights.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Founder/Co-founder
  - Seattle Displacement Coalition: low-income housing organizing and advocacy
  - Downtown Emergency Service Center: homeless shelter, counseling, and housing
  - Common Ground: non-profit housing developer
  - Homelessness Project: transitional housing for women with children, now HomeStep
  - Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness: interfaith education & action on homelessness
  - Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action: social action training for congregations
- Active member, Seattle Coalition on Redlining, successfully organized to end redlining in Seattle's Central District
- Led Convention Center Coalition: saved 8th Ave. overpass and generated more than \$2 million in funds to replace housing lost due to convention center construction
- Inducted into Lamda Alpha, International Land Economics Society: first low-income housing advocate invited to join professional society of developers, bankers, attorneys, urban planners, academics, etc.

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- Leader in advocating for creation and passage of Seattle's first housing levy.
- Organized religious community support for SEIU-6 Justice for Janitors and Swedish Hospital service workers campaigns for fair wages, working conditions, and benefits
- Organized ecumenical support for development of Black Dollar Days
- James Milam Education Award, Washington State Association of Alcoholism and Addictions Programs, on behalf of the Church Council of Greater Seattle for organizing conference "Moving Beyond the War on Drugs"
- Organized Church Council's AmeriCorps program: 20 positions serving children and youth in community-based programs across the city, now Sound Youth AmeriCorps

### EMPLOYMENT:

#### **2004-2009**

Adjunct Faculty, Antioch University-Seattle:

#### **2001-2006**

Executive Director, Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action

#### **2001-2004**

Executive Director, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

#### **2000-2003**

Congregational organizer, Real Change

#### **1999**

Consultant, Minnesota Council of Churches

#### **1997-1998**

Executive Director, Interfaith Community Ministry Network, Houston, TX

#### **1981-1997**

Associate Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle—directed Council's urban programs

#### **1978-1981**

Program Director, Urban Task Force, Church Council of Greater Seattle—organizer/advocate on low-income housing and homeless issues

#### **1975-1977**

Associate Pastor, and now longtime member, University Baptist Church, one of Seattle's most liberal and socially active congregations

### EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Macalester College

Master of Divinity, American Baptist Seminary of the West

Master of Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary

### ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

- Boards of Directors
  - Downtown Emergency Service Center
  - Pike Place Market PDA
  - Friends of Youth
  - ROOTS (Rising Out Of The Shadows): young adult shelter and Friday Feast meal program
  - Real Change
- Education
  - Organized dozens of local workshops and conferences on a wide range of urban issues
  - Led workshops at Children's Defense Fund national conferences
  - Organized first "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness" conference, followed by seven annual conferences to date
  - Teach community organizing, homelessness, and spirituality & social action at Antioch

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- Organized religious leaders support for passage of Seattle school levy
- Organized religious leaders multi-week sit-in at Mayor’s office to protest human service budget cuts
- President, Citizens for Shelter with Dignity: sponsored Initiative 71 to fund 400 additional shelter beds and increase Seattle homeless spending by 20 percent. Reached negotiated agreement with City to increase shelter funding by \$2.75 million and to fund a new day center.
- Member, Real Change Organizing Project: calling for end to Mayor’s encampment sweeps policy
- Contributor of letters to the editor and op-eds to Seattle newspapers
- Retired in 2006 and continued to teach at Antioch, volunteer with Real Change, ROOTS, and the Displacement Coalition, and serve as co-chair of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	N/A
Union Endorsement	N/A
Municipal League	N/A
SEAMEC	N/A
Other Endorsements	200 individual endorsements, including Larry Gossett, Sharon Tomiko-Santos, Tony Lee, Rachael Myers, Alice Woldt, Verlene Jones, Darel Grothaus, Bill Hobson, Sharon Lee, Peter Steinbrueck, Lee Moriwaki, Carla Okigwe, John Burbank, Pat McCoy, Velma Veloria, Dolores Sibonga

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

All District Democrats, All Unions, All Environmental Groups and an “Outstanding” from the Municipal League

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?

I am a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats and have contributed to the 46<sup>th</sup> and to the Democratic National Committee.

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 Message

It's time for a reform candidate for Seattle City Council. Last year, we saw at the national level what can happen when people are ready for change. We need that same spirit here in Seattle.

Government in a democratic society exists to serve the people. But Seattle city government has become disconnected from its people. As I move about the city, again and again I hear people saying that we are headed in the wrong direction, that we are losing the qualities that have made Seattle such an exceptional place to live. Work doesn't pay a living wage. We are stuck in traffic. Our streets are falling apart. We develop neighborhood plans and then the City ignores them. We are closing our schools and talking about building a new jail. Families are being forced to move out of Seattle because housing is too expensive. Homelessness continues to grow. Our youth are dying on our streets.

We can do better. We **must** do better.

It is time for a new direction in City Hall. It is time to take seriously the notion of the "common good," that we are all in this together. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, "We are caught in an inescapable web of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

There are powerful forces that want to continue to pour our tax dollars into downtown projects while ignoring the larger needs of our city—the common good. But we have the power of regular people in neighborhoods all over Seattle who care about the entire city, who care about that "inescapable web of mutuality" that binds us all together.

To turn our city around, we've got to be bold and we've got to get organized to build a city that works for everyone. Here's what I will do when I am elected to the Seattle City Council:

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- Build 5,000 additional affordable housing units above and beyond the goals of the housing levy and the homelessness plan, and require that when developers tear down affordable housing in our neighborhoods, they must replace it.
- Create a City initiative to increase living wage jobs.
- Develop (in conjunction with King County and other jurisdictions) a regional transportation plan that connects our neighborhoods with more bus routes, is less focused on downtown Seattle, and moves the most people at the least cost.
- Replace the expensive redo of Mercer Street with a less expensive alternative that actually improves the traffic flow and redirect the dollars saved to rebuilding our neighborhood infrastructure.
- Protect neighborhood trees, watersheds, and open space.

### Campaign Plan

The Bloom For City Council campaign will:

- Raise \$80K by the primary and \$150K by the general.
- Activate 500 volunteers by the primary and 750 volunteers by the general
- Develop a concise message that emphasizes Bloom's campaign to reform the city council to better reflect the values of Seattle voters.
- Deliver messages through earned media, credible third parties and paid communications on an aggressive timeline designed to control the debate and keep on the offensive.
- Undertake background research on opposition
- Conduct polling of likely voters to test and develop strategies and messages.
- Give scheduling priority to fundraising and personal outreach.
- Generate "buzz" and momentum through ongoing campaign outreach to the community and the media.
- Target voters with demographic, electoral and voter file criteria.
- Contact targeted voters through paid advertising (mostly direct mail) to persuade and motivate support for Bloom in the election's final weeks.

### Campaign to date

We have done no mailing or neighborhood canvassing as of yet. We plan to do extensive voter outreach in June and July, including possible targeted door knocking. We plan to have 500 volunteers call 50 voters each for a total of 25,000 phone calls. We have raised \$36,000 to date and are spending carefully. While my major opponent has raised considerably more, we have nearly the same amount in the bank.

We will win because my message is resonating with the voters, i.e., we need to invest in housing, jobs, and a transportation system that works and stop spending so much on big, expensive projects that mostly serve the downtown at the expense of the larger public interest. Also, we are building a broad, grassroots coalition of Democratic, labor, neighborhood, minority, and other progressive groups that want to see a voice on the city council that truly represents the citizens of Seattle.

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

We have to stop picking the most expensive option for major projects. We have decided to dig a tunnel, fix the mercer mess, and possibly build a new jail all at the same time, yet we wonder why we don't have the resources to support basic city services. We need to prioritize these major projects and consider more cost-effective alternatives so that we don't gut human services, housing, transportation and public safety.

The actions I will take include to set a goal of 5,000 additional units of low-income housing, introduce a living wage initiative, support a transit system that is more built around buses and car & van pools, redirect funds from Mercer to rebuilding our neighborhood infrastructure, and establish strong environmental polices that protect our trees, open space, and watersheds as our city grows.

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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.

I have been a progressive Democrat and community organizer in Seattle for over 30 years. My work demonstrates my commitment to core progressive values that support working people, minorities, the homeless, and the right to choice. I have built programs that serve low-income and homeless people; supported the rights of workers to organize for living wages and benefits; negotiated for stronger City budgets that support housing and human services; and organized and led community-based coalitions that fought for civil and human rights. I believe our city can do a better job of prioritizing basic services, including caring for the economically and socially vulnerable, rebuilding our physical infrastructure, and promoting and protecting living wage jobs. I will support any Democratic candidate in the general election who represents a fundamental commitment to social justice, improving the lives of our low-income neighbors, and is willing to stand up to the powerful political and economic forces that tend to dominate the agenda at City Hall.

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 we need a state income tax. We should concurrently look at reducing other more regressive taxes like the sales tax and the litany of small business taxes that make it tough for people living in the city.

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

I am the only candidate in the race with a goal of building 5,000 new units of affordable housing beyond the 10-year plan on homelessness and the housing levy. We can do this by shifting our priorities from the big expensive projects mentioned above and by implementing more requirements on developers, such as inclusionary zoning and strengthening the multi-family tax exemption. I have spent most of my thirty years of organizing working on homelessness and affordable housing issues. It's one of the main reasons I decided to run for Seattle City Council.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

We should have a national single-payer health care system.

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 support gay marriage and equal rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people.

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

We have to make Seattle more affordable. I am strongly supportive of the initiative that looks at alternatives to the new jail. I would balance out the need to make Seattle more affordable with these giant capital projects that are taking dollars from basic services. In addition to my goal for 5,000 new units of housing, I am also the only candidate proposing a living wage initiative to ensure better paying jobs with good benefits for the working people of Seattle.

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

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Printed Name	David C. Bloom	Date
Signature	David C. Bloom	May 18, 2009