

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	David Miller
Position sought	Seattle City Council, Position 8
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th Legislative District, County Council District 1, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	I am a Democrat, and proud to be known as such.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Miller for Seattle
Web page	www.MillerForSeattle.org
Campaign Email address	David.Miller@MillerForSeattle.org
Manager	Jessica Beckett (Jessica.beckett@MillerForSeattle.org)
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 75187, Seattle, WA 98175-0187
Campaign phone number	206-517-5520 cell: 206-679-1997
Campaign FAX	n/a

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
<p>I graduated cum laude in 1990 from Western Washington University with a degree in Communications and minors in Business and Political Science. I was the Communications department's Most Outstanding Graduate in 1990.</p> <p>I am the co-founder and CEO of Biotech Stock Research. BSR provides detailed financial and scientific analysis of biotech companies and serves investors from around the world.</p> <p>I am also a volunteer member of the teaching team for the Entrepreneur's Workshop at UW-Bothell, which takes student entrepreneurs from business idea to business plan and has helped launch nearly 40 companies in the last nine years.</p> <p>From 1991- 1998 I worked for Versidata overseeing this software company's growth from a garage business to a regional market leader.</p> <p>During college, I put myself through school working summers on the graveyard and swing shifts at Grays Harbor Paper Company, where I worked under the rules and protections of the collective bargaining agreement between the company and AWPPW Local 315.</p> <p>I am the immediate past President of the Maple Leaf Community Council (MLCC), and have been an elected member of the Executive Board for a number of years. Maple Leaf is a north Seattle neighborhood of over 3,400 homes and businesses. I continue to be Chair of the Waldo Work</p>

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Group, a MLCC subcommittee working to make sure development at the historic Waldo Hospital site is environmentally sound. I represent Maple Leaf on the North Seattle District Council, one of 13 city-chartered District Councils. I currently am an alternate representative of the North District Council to the City's Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee. I have previously represented Maple Leaf on the Seattle Police Department's North Precinct Advisory Committee. I joined the Green Legacy Coalition in 2007 to work to convince City Council to place a parks levy on the ballot in 2008, which we did. I was appointed by the Council to the Parks & Green Spaces Levy Citizens' Advisory Committee that constructed the parks levy. I worked on the steering committee for the Parks For All campaign that advocated for passing the parks levy. I work closely with Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders, Seattle Save Our Trees, and several other organizations on issues relating to preservation, inventory, and restoration of our urban tree canopy.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	<p>I am honored to have the support of a number of community leaders, business owners, environmental leaders, and residents so early in the campaign. Our list is growing every day, but the current list includes:</p> <p>Linda Pruitt, CEO, The Cottages Company Lisa Quinn, Executive Director, FeetFirst* Denis Hayes, Environmental Leader Bob Ferguson, King County Councilman Peter Steinbrueck, former Seattle City Councilman Sharon Lee, Executive Director Low Income Housing Institute* Dave Mann, Partner, Gendler & Mann Bruce & Ann Blume, The Blume Company Anne Levinson, Force 10 Hoops* Eileen Quigley H. Stewart Parker, former CEO Targeted Genetics Todd Patrick, Director CRH Medical, former President ID Biomedical Kathy Nyland, community leader Martin Simonetti, CEO VLST, Inc. Bruce Montgomery, Gilead Michael Martino, former CEO Sonus Joyce Moty, Parks and Open Space advocate, community organizer</p>

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	<p>Ann Corbitt Stacey Noland, President, MoonTown Foundation* Craig Parsons, Architect Cass Turnbull, Arborist Cheryl Trivison & Rich Haag, Landscape Architects and environmentalists Ivan Weiss Cherisse Luxa Liz Giba Sylvia Haven</p> <p>Additional endorsements are listed, along with quotes from many of the people listed above, on the campaign web site at: http://www.millerforseattle.org/endorsements.html</p> <p>(* Organization listed for identification purposes only)</p>
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Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I believe that my background and views reflect those of a number of labor, environmental, Democratic, and neighborhood organizations in Seattle. In addition to your organization's support, I hope to earn endorsements from:

- Seattle District Democrats
- King County Labor Council
- Seattle King County Building Trades

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.

Question 6: If we fund and outfit our public schools at the same levels we see in private schools and continue to see a performance deficit, then and only then would I entertain a *discussion* on school vouchers or charter schools.

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/none

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 46th District Democrats and contributed to that organization. I contributed to MoveOn.org. I have not been 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?

Seattle needs someone on the City Council who has fought for Seattle's environment, has significant business experience, who has the trust of neighborhoods, and who is committed to seeking intelligent solutions for the diverse issues our growing city must face. As a 15+ year business executive, green space and urban forest advocate, and neighborhood organizer, I can bring these skills to the Council. In speaking with hundreds of Seattleites as part of the campaign, I have learned Seattle voters want candidates to focus on the following four areas: Growing Responsibly, Strengthening Neighborhoods, Prioritizing People, and Getting Back to Basics.

I plan to run an extensive field campaign that mobilizes family, friends, colleagues, neighborhood leaders, business, environmentalists, campaign supporters, and the members of endorsing organizations.

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I am already out in the community, and have met with hundreds of Seattleites personally, in small meetings, or through their organizations and will continue to do so throughout the campaign. In addition, our campaign is planning a robust door to door and phone banking effort to get out our campaign message of putting the people of Seattle first.

Our fundraising goal is \$200–250,000. To date, we have raised \$38,500, which is in line with our expectations given the current economic climate, and on track for our ultimate goal. The campaign employs one full-time campaign manager and two consultants. We have had contingency plans in place from the start of the campaign in case the current economic downturn makes it impossible to meet our fundraising goals.

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

Economy and environment, which I see as one issue because they are linked.

Seattle is on a knife edge where decisions we make in the next four years will bring lasting prosperity or set back our city and region for years. While broader issues of credit access and problems with our financial system – the core cause of our current economic downturn -- are beyond the scope of a City Councilmember, as a city we can take steps to position ourselves in such a way that we will be on the leading edge of economic recovery. I have many ideas for specific actions to help small businesses and green businesses create or continue to provide living wage jobs. Overall, however, I will work very hard on City Council if elected to accomplish two things.

1. Aggressive Program in Homes and Offices to conserve energy.

As a successful volunteer instructor at UW-Bothell working with entrepreneurs, I am always counseling them to look for their unique competitive advantage. In our area, our comparatively inexpensive and very carbon-friendly power system is a competitive advantage that is not duplicated anywhere in the nation and would be tough to duplicate in most places around the globe. A major cost for most businesses, especially manufacturing businesses that provide living wage blue collar jobs, is their energy costs. This will become even more pronounced once we pass legislation on the national level that accurately assigns a carbon impact fee to carbon-heavy forms of energy. Every kilowatt of our uniquely low carbon, inexpensive electricity we can save through conservation is a kilowatt of energy we can use to attract green businesses to our area.

2. Protect our industrial lands

The internet revolution was very kind to our area, bringing high-paying jobs and significant economic expansion. I expect the same for the coming green economic revolution. There is a significant difference between the two, however, and the difference is space. Someone with a laptop sitting in a coffee shop can start an internet business and operate it to profitability. Green businesses need space for equipment, manufacturing, trucks, materials, and/or research. If Seattle is to become the epicenter for green economy jobs like I am certain we are capable of doing, we *must* protect our industrial lands so we have space to launch and grow these businesses.

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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 am pro-choice, pro gay marriage, and a Democrat. We must make sure all candidates in the race affirm these basic Democratic values before obtaining our endorsement.

I stated before my campaign is focused on business, neighborhoods, and the environment. Other candidates also talk about these issues. I have significant experience and a track record in all three.

Business – I am a successful businessman. My own business turned 10 years old in May. Owning and running a business is a beneficial resume item for a City Councilmember. My experience extends beyond that of my competitors through my role in helping launch over 40 companies in the last nine years out of the Entrepreneur’s Workshop at UW-Bothell. In this economic climate, business *creation* experience is critical.

Environment – I have worked extensively on issue of parks and open space, urban tree canopy, and environmental health. In parks and open space, I played a role in convincing Council to consider a parks levy, was highly active on the committee that constructed the recent levy, and was on the steering committee of the campaign that got it passed. I am recognized citywide as a leader on urban forest canopy issues. I wrote and secured unanimous passage of a Council Resolution (31065) directing DPD to properly enforce existing city laws to protect tree groves. This has resulted in a proposed change in a critical DPR Director’s Rule. I authored an ordinance offering significant new protection for tree groves. It was replaced by an inferior ordinance from the Mayor, but his proposal was significantly strengthened through our work. As part of the Waldo Working Group, I raised significant funds to mount a legal challenge against a project that would have spread uncontrolled lead-bearing dust over homes, playgrounds, and a drinking water reservoir. Our group identified a hole in federal, state, county, and city regulations where there is no protection for communities from lead-bearing dust resulting from demolition.

Neighborhood – I have been a visible and active neighborhood community organizer. Membership in the Maple Leaf Community Council has increased, we launched a new web site, and have nearly 1,000 people on our outbound e-mail communication lists. I provided support to Councilmember Sally Clark in turning back proposals for a top-down neighborhood planning process and continue to be involved in that effort. I have represented neighborhoods on issues with significant budgetary impacts, worked on public safety issues, and been involved in several aspects of land use regulations.

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?

I do not believe they are fair. I would support Seattle supporting a simultaneous reduction in sales and use taxes in exchange for a state income tax. I believe the floor area tax should be repealed as it is counterproductive to business growth. The head tax should also be repealed, at least for smaller businesses.

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

Pass a housing levy that does not include funds for rental units at 80% of median income because the correlating rental rates are higher than the average rental rate in the city. Make use of incentive zoning to augment levy funds. Leverage federal green-economy stimulus funds for demonstration housing projects that can serve a dual-purpose of housing low-income residents.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

As a Seattle City Councilmember, our role in dictating healthcare policy on a systemic level is limited. However, I think we can set an example and generate valuable data by moving our city more strongly towards healthcare plans that focus on preventative care, proactive lifestyle modifications, and protein/SNP screening to reduce drug side effects and properly diagnose disease.

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?

There must be no legal or functional difference between the rights and responsibilities of members of the GLBT community and anyone else in society. We are all created equal and our laws and policies should reflect this fundamental truth.

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

The most exciting thing about the coming green jobs revolution is, if we do it correctly, it can serve as an engine for economic, environmental, *AND* social change. Green economy jobs are GED to PhD – in other words, they provide opportunities to people of all educational and economic backgrounds. One reason I am so committed to making sure Seattle gets it right and becomes an epicenter of the green economy is because of the societal benefits it will provide.

I am honored to be endorsed by Stacey Noland, founder of the Moontown Foundation. Moontown's SWITCH program is a perfect example of what I'm talking about. SWITCH takes at-risk kids and trains them to do energy retrofits and pays them a living wage to do the work. Their work is targeted to Section 8 housing, where people struggle to make ends meet. After SWITCH does its thing, residents in Section 8 housing have lower living costs due to lower energy bills. SWITCH team members get a new skill. They get paid. Section 8 residents have more disposable income. Seattle City Light doesn't have to generate as much electricity. Then there is a carbon reduction and environmental benefit from the reduced energy use. The powerful multiplier effect of this program is an excellent example of why the green economy is so important to Seattle's future.

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

Printed
Name

David D. Miller

Date May 18,
2009

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Signature		
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