

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Peter S. Holmes
Position sought	Seattle City Attorney
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	37 th LD, 2 nd CC District, 7 th CD
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes, I am a Democratic PCO (Precinct 37-1647) and I volunteered on the Gore, Kerry and Obama Campaigns
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Pete Holmes for City Attorney
Web page	www.holmesforseattle.com
Campaign Email address	info@holmesforseattle.com
Manager	Jon Brumbach
Campaign mailing address	P.O. Box 28331 Seattle WA 98118-8331
Campaign phone number	206-529-4050
Campaign FAX	206-547-5548

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>I earned my B.A. in American Studies (with an emphasis in Energy & Environmental Science) from Yale in 1978 and my J.D. from the University of Virginia in 1984. Ann (my wife of 27 years) and I moved to Seattle in 1985; we have lived in our 100 year old Seward Park house since 1986, where we raised our daughter and son. (Our nest emptied just last fall when our youngest left to join his sister at college.) I specialized in complex civil litigation and business bankruptcy law as a partner at Miller Nash LLP, where I was both Seattle's hiring partner and partner-in-charge of the Insolvency & Reorganization Group. I left Miller Nash late in 2001 seeking to devote my legal training and experience to public service. In early 2002, I was appointed by Seattle City Council as the lawyer member of the City's first Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)—the civilian panel charged with the oversight of the Seattle Police Department's misconduct investigation system. I became OPARB's chair in 2003 and served until late 2008. During that time, I was Seattle's voting representative in and lecturer for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE).</i></p>

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With the current economic recession, I resumed my bankruptcy practice at Crocker Kuno, PLLC, emphasizing the representation of debtor businesses in bankruptcy. I am a 2003 graduate of the SPD's Community Policing Academy; a 2006 graduate of Leadership Tomorrow; and a member of both the Washington State and King County Bar Associations. I have been a volunteer host at St. Joseph's homeless men's winter shelter for over a decade.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	Endorsement processes pending
Union Endorsement	“ “
Municipal League	“ “
SEAMEC	“ “
Other Endorsements	I have received Martindale–Hubbell’s highest possible rating (A–V) for legal ability and ethics from my peers in Seattle’s legal community. In 2004, the Judicial Recommendation Committee of the Washington State Bar Association certified to Governor Gregoire that I am well qualified for appointment to the Washington State Court of Appeals. I also have a growing list of individual endorsements including Hubert Locke, former Dean of the Evans School of Public Affairs. Please see my website for an updated list.

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

I plan on seeking endorsements from a variety of different progressive organizations, including Democratic organizations, Labor, Environmental groups, Legal Advocacy groups, as well as local press and community groups.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	Y		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	Y		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	Y		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	Y		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	Y		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		N	
7	Do you support the Davis–Bacon Act?	Y		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	Y		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?	Y		
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	Y		

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Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		N
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		N
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		N

* 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 have contributed to countless Democratic organizations. I am the Democratic PCO for Precinct 1647 in the 37th LD, since 2004.

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?

I will champion transparency; honest, open government; and thoughtful leadership. My campaign plan includes an aggressive media plan to get the word out to the voters of Seattle as well as meet with the voters face-to-face through community meetings, events and doorbelling. As I still have responsibilities to my work at Crocker Kuno, I have not yet been able to knock on any doors, but intend to step away my work at the firm in May. At that time I will be a full time candidate.

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

The City Attorney's Office needs to shift its priorities. The budget crisis has forced government at all levels to make some tough decisions. The decisions have been made harder by the current policies supported by the City Attorney. The nightclub sting known as "Operation Sobering Thought" is just one example of an "enforcement first" mentality that wasted scarce resources—resulting in zero convictions and no solutions. The decision to jail low-level offenders and prosecute obstruction cases has led to overcrowding and the likely need to invest over \$250 million for a new jail while at the same time we are mothballing our schoolhouses. As City Attorney, I will make rehabilitation and prevention the focus of my prosecutorial responsibilities by turning to community based law enforcement and a truly transparent government. Transparency will breed trust in our communities, and that trust will help stop crime before it hits our streets.

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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.

This is a non-partisan position.

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?

As a lifelong advocate for the rights of lower income families and individuals, I am disheartened by the regressive nature of Washington's tax system and believe we are in need of a systemic overhaul. Deep cuts at all levels of government this year are in part a result of an overreliance on the sales tax, which hits hardest those least able to pay.

I support a graduated income tax and subsequent rollback of property and sales taxes.

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

I am a strong supporter of the Seattle housing levy and will work where I can to see that it passes once again this fall. As City Attorney I cannot play a policy role in creating incentives for additional affordable housing, but I can enforce rules that protect the safety and standards of housing for working and lower income residents.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Government should set the example by providing quality benefits and increase the buying power of small business by leveraging lower costs where possible.

At the federal level, I am in favor of a single payer system that would eliminate many of the glaring inequities of the current 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 believe full marriage equality is the right of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual preference or religion.

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

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In addition to tax and health care reforms discussed above, we need to invest as a nation, state, and city in job training and job creation strategies that put people back to work. My strong professional credentials in dealing with our banking system and the Bankruptcy Code provide me with tools and insights into how best to increase the effective capacity of our economic safety net.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Peter S. Holmes	Date 4/23/2009
Signature		