

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Rusty Williams
Position sought	City Council
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th 2 nd 7 th
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes Oh, yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	The Rusty Williams Campaign
Web page	www.rustywilliams.com
Campaign Email address	Rusty4Council@gmail.com
Manager	Cathy Allen
Campaign mailing address	P.O. Box 51081 Seattle, WA 98115
Campaign phone number	206.455.3502
Campaign FAX	206.382.1338

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seattle born and raised. My family has been here since 1904 • Educated at Sand Point Elementary, Nathan Eckstein Middle School, Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington School of Business Administration (majors: Information Technology and Marketing) • Father worked for Seattle City Light for 30 years • Mother worked for Seattle City Council for 20 years - Councilmember Jeannette Williams • I worked for Seattle Engineering Department for 4 years (laborer and technician) • 13 years in Seattle as a professional musician • 14 years in Seattle as a small business owner (computer professional/entrepreneur) • 5 years in Seattle as a commercial real estate broker • Involved in the political process since 1960 working alongside my mother, Jeanette Williams, former KCDCC Chair and Seattle City Councilperson. • Worked on many major local political campaigns including Jeanette Williams, Norm Rice, Tom Rasmussen, Judy Nicastro and Heidi Wills. • Chair of Sand Point Citizen's Liaison Committee working on behalf of the community for a better Magnuson Park

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- Co-Chair of Friends of Magnuson Park working on behalf of the community for a better Magnuson Park
- Secretary-Treasurer of Rainier Valley Rotary Club. Many community activities in the Rainier Valley. Most recent - I am heading a book drive for Van Asselt Elementary School.
- Member of the 46th district Democrats
- Member of Cease Fire Washington - a firearm safety
- Member of the Washington Blues society
- Union affiliation - Locals 76 and 360 - Seattle and Renton Musician's Union - membership expired

Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	More than 200 individuals

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

Every Democratic District in Seattle, King County Conservation Voters, King County Labor Council, King County Women's Political Caucus, NARAL, and other progressive organization.

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 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 –never – I have 100% Democratic DNA. I have never even voted for a Republican. I almost did once, but I changed my mind.

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, 46th I am an assistant PCO in my precinct under Brenda Etter. 46-2377

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 am Seattle. I have lived and worked here my entire life. I have done everything from digging ditches and fixing potholes for the City to driving a cab to put myself through college. I have been everything from a professional musician to being an executive with a 20 person staff and a million dollar budget. My campaign plan is to get the message to the citizens of this city that I represent all of them. That job #1 is to see that their everyday life in Seattle is as livable as the government can help make it. That public process can work if you have a champion. I am that champion. I intend to raise what it takes to win. That could be as much as \$250,000. I have put \$30,000 of what remains of my retirement in the campaign fund. I will win because I am more like the voters. The political landscape has changed: the voters want more than what they are now getting out of their local officials.

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

The biggest issues are: the economy, transportation and education.

The city can help the **economy** by 1) tightening its belt 2) spend much smarter (see: Mercer St) 3) support small businesses which are the greatest providers of employment

Transportation – we have several vast capital improvement projects (viaduct, 520, Spokane St, Mercer St.) representing billions of dollars. What are the net results of these projects? Mercer St. in particular is a vast expenditure with not that much upside. How carefully was the bidding process carried out? Multiple bids? Apples for apples? If elected, I will be extremely thorough in the preliminary phase of such projects which will provide great benefits to follow.

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Education – As a species, this is the single most important thing we do. Period. And in Seattle, we can do a much better job. The city must actively team with the School Board to find creative new ways to enhance our children’s education – both in breadth and in depth.

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.

My experience as a lifelong citizen and businessman in Seattle provides me a much broader perspective of our city’s issues than virtually any other candidate running for an open seat for City Council. My experience as an activist provides me with the knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of Seattle’s vaunted public process. (Which in my opinion is a myth.)

I have never voted for a Republican in my life. That is a badge of honor.
The Democratic Party is the party of “We”.
The Republican Party is the party of “Me”.

I am not a lawyer, nor a lifelong political operative. I’m a common guy with uncommon credentials: I have a sense of humor that I am not afraid to use to inspire and engage people; I have the business credentials to ask the questions you would ask in these tough economic times, and I am proud and positive about Seattle.

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?

The State and City sales taxes are regressive and they are the single biggest reason Washington has a \$9 billion budget shortfall.
It simply must be replaced by an income tax.
Another regressive tax is the reduced tax on automobile license tabs. People with more expensive cars should pay more taxes.

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

As co-chair of the Friends of Magnuson Park Liaison Committee, I am working along with Solid Ground to see that the homeless housing at the Park is dedicated to our war veterans. 52 units are going in shortly and more are to follow. Programs like this go a long way to reducing the problem. But more can be done. Housing Authorities, voucher systems and other creative avenues are helping. But we can always do more.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

The healthcare system in America is fundamentally broken. At all levels – insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, health facilities and incorrectly motivated health care professionals. The government is the only institution with enough power to do anything about it. And government must do something. On the Federal, State and Local levels in conjunction and with fervor. President Obama has made this a priority and as a city government official, I would align myself with his plan.

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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?

Banning gay marriage is a function of the blurring of the distinction of church and state. I am fundamentally opposed to this. No two people should be disallowed from marrying based on religious precepts. Legalize gay marriage.

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

The absolute best way to address this issue is to see that our citizens, our children are properly educated in the first place. This means that children must be able to read at a third grade level when they are in the third grade. Statistics prove that this is the single best way to reduce not only poverty but also crime. These days, prisons are actually designed bas on the number of people who don't possess a third grade level reading ability.

For those that it is too late for, I propose job training programs and when necessary, mental health care for those in need of it.

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

Printed Name	Rusty williams	Date April 4, 2009
Signature		