

## 2009 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Mike		Creighton

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

**Bellevue City Council, Position Number 7**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

**33 years.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**62 years.**

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan?       Partisan       Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Creighton for Bellevue

Address:      PO Box 50048

City/State/Zip:      Bellevue, WA

Campaign Phone:      (425) 641-1807

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Campaign E-mail:      mike@creightonforbellevue.com

Campaign Website:      www.creightonforbellevue.com

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Bellevue City Council	Appointed (7/09-present); Elected (1996-2003)	1996-2003 & 2009	Mayor ('98-'99)
Bellevue School Board	Elected ('80-'87); Appointed (1991)	(1980-'87, 1991)	Board President ('83 and '87)

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run

## SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
  - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
  - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
  - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

**The short story is that I am running for office in order to help ensure that Bellevue continues to be a wonderful place to live, work, play, and bring up a family. I have always been drawn to public service in addition to my private life and I believe strongly in giving back to a community which has been good to me and doing what I can to have a positive effect on people's lives.**

**The long version is that after my good friend Phil Noble passed away in June, I was appointed by the Bellevue City Council to serve on the Council until after the special election in November. Upon being appointed to the Council, many citizens encouraged me to run for the two-year unexpired term, saying that my prior leadership and experience on the Council would be very helpful during these challenging economic times. As well managed as Bellevue has been, we are facing a significant budget shortfall in both the capital budget and operating budget, which could put many of our past accomplishments at risk.**

**I'm proud of my many years of service and accomplishments as a City Council member, School Board member and Mayor and I want to make sure the city stays on course. We need experienced hands to guide the city through these tough times, making sure we affirm our commitment to public safety, honor the voters' intentions on the park levy, get Sound Transit's Light Rail development right for Bellevue, protect the integrity of our neighborhoods, and prevent cuts to human services in Bellevue in times when people are at their most vulnerable.**

**Bellevue has been a great place to live and run a successful business, providing my family and me with friendly, caring neighbors, extraordinary friends, good schools for my two children and an opportunity to serve my community. Now that I am retired from private business, I want to continue to give back to this city by dedicating my time, energy, passion and experience during these challenging times. That is why I am running for the Bellevue City Council.**

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

**I believe my most important characteristics are my ability to work with others, listen, do my due diligence and homework, and stay true to my values. I have a common sense approach to solving problems that is well-suited to these uncertain times of rapid change. The fact that my appointment to the City Council was approved by my colleagues unanimously speaks to my ability to work with everyone, no matter where they come from philosophically. From my experience in the private sector, on non-profit boards, on the School Board, and on the Council, I have always thrived in a team environment. Part of this is my commitment to listening to people – their concerns, their questions, and their ideas. I believe listening to be far more important than talking.**

**I am a good facilitator and am known among my colleagues on the Council to do my homework. An important and often underrated characteristic for this job is the personal commitment of the time necessary to read and understand the volumes of material that come before you as a Council member and be able to objectively weigh the many factors that go into decision making. For a Council member, it is important to be able to make the tough decisions that are right for the residents of Bellevue; I consider that one of my strengths.**

**Beyond that, I am proud of my commitment to my values. In my years in public office, I am proud that I have never compromised my integrity, nor put any goal ahead of my desire to do the most good for the city of Bellevue and its people. I have worked hard to be trustworthy – a characteristic that is earned, not given – and I have always strived in both my private and public affairs to keep all my promises. This is the most important characteristic a public servant can have.**

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

**I have had many accomplishments in my years of community and public service and as with most achievements, I must share credit with many outstanding, dedicated, hard-working people who helped in these efforts. There are some accomplishments for which there is not enough space; for example, having helped raise two successful children and building a business from 13 employees to 300 people. Below are three of my many achievements of which I am proud and also humbled for the opportunity to have worked on and accomplish and grateful to all those who helped me.**

- **While I was Mayor, I helped Bellevue receive their AAA Bond rating. This was a major goal of mine and one I and others worked many hours accomplishing. The rating upgrade – the highest available – is proof of Bellevue’s responsible governance and sound fiscal policy under my stewardship. It was accomplished by getting Bellevue’s fiscal house in order. The upgraded Bond rating from Standard & Poor means it costs Bellevue less to borrow money in order to fund many of the City’s capital projects. Because of the rating, jobs were created, projects were realized, and citizens saved money.**
- **When I joined the City Council in 1996 the funding for human services was always difficult at budget time. In Bellevue we provide human services primarily by funding third party providers who submit requests each budget period to our human services commission. Until I worked for change, there was no set budget and all requests had to compete with many other items on the budget for funding. I introduced the idea to a very conservative Council that we should provide stable, reliable funding for the Human Services budget. I proposed setting a budget and then tying future budgets to population growth and cost of living so that we could provide stable, reliable funding in the future. We then passed a**

**resolution that includes a formula which is still used today that makes Bellevue one of the most stable funders of human service providers in the region.**

- **As Co-chair of the Bel-Red Steering Committee in 2006 and 2007, I helped lay the foundation for the Bel-Red Corridor Plan, which will result in the transformation of a 900-acre urban site into the largest mixed-use, transit-oriented development in the country, creating thousands of new jobs, parks, open spaces and affordable and workforce housing. As Steering Committee Co-chair I helped bring together all the stakeholders – business owners, nearby residents, interested developers, environmental groups, mass transit-oriented groups, and advocates for affordable and senior housing. The committee was able to bring these diverse interests together and get them invested in a common goal, laying the foundation for the City Council to work toward that vision.**

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

**I believe I have had a lifetime of activities that have prepared me for serving on the City Council. Starting at an early age I was fortunate to attend leadership camps as a school officer. I served as an officer in the Army overseeing troops and facilities. Throughout my insurance career I was involved in management, initially as an underwriting manager for a large national firm and later as a partner helping build a local, 13-person insurance sales office into a 300 employee insurance sales and financial services company before selling to a national firm.**

**In the public sector I have served on the Bellevue School Board, Bellevue City Council, Hopelink Board and the Seafair Board.**

**It was as a School Board Member and Board Chair that I first gained the knowledge of public process. I learned about: setting agendas, consent agendas, complex budgets, restricted funds, public hearings, complex labor negotiations, how to hire an organization CEO (School Superintendent), how to get consensus on very difficult issues (school closures), how to chair both routine public hearings and hearings in highly charged environments (when officers had to be present), how to really listen to public testimony, how to interact with department heads and staff, how to work with other members of elected Boards of Directors, about the purpose and limits of executive sessions, managing a labor strike, speaking in public, about the diversity of Bellevue and its many cultures and languages spoken and a host of other invaluable experiences, including how to absorb a vast amount of knowledge about public schools.**

**Moving to the City Council, I took the skills I learned on the School Board and further developed and refined them while learning new skills. I had to manage a very difficult senior management personnel issue. I served on regional policy groups, interacted with government agencies and officials, chaired Council meetings (as Mayor), and spoke often before both large and small groups. I helped hire a city manager and assimilated a whole new universe of terms and issues involved in City government.**

**In addition, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Hopelink, a human services agency, and come to better understand the needs of the less fortunate.**

**Serving on and chairing the Seafair Board has given me the opportunity to meet and work with a regional group of leaders and learn about the complexity of putting on large public events.**

**And I am continuing to learn. Every day I build knowledge and skills that help me be a more effective Council member for the City of Bellevue. I hope to utilize that experience and knowledge, coupled with my passion and energy, in order to maintain Bellevue's progress.**

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

**There are many duties and responsibilities of a City Council member, but most important is the duty to carry out the Oath of Office you take when sworn into office. In short, it states: “I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of this office as prescribed by law and to the best of my ability I will support and maintain the Constitutions of the State of Washington and the United States of America.” Within that scope I believe there are several very important duties.**

- 1) Listen to and communicate with the residents of Bellevue who elected you to represent them, recognizing that there are many diverse groups and opinions and not all will be happy with every decision, but all need to be respected and know their voices have been heard.**
- 2) Provide financial oversight of the City Budget by understanding how much revenue is coming in, where it is coming from and how the money is being spent so that you can ensure that the people and city are getting the most for their money and you are carrying out your fiduciary responsibilities.**
- 3) Do your homework. Read the material staff prepares for you in advance of discussions, listen to constituents’ input during public hearings, come prepared to discuss the issues with your fellow Council members and thus contribute positively to the public dialogue.**
- 4) Respect and work collaboratively with fellow Council members and regional stakeholders to ensure good communication and desired results, thereby carrying out the vision and goals of the city.**
- 5) Set policy. Remember that the City Council is a policy-making body and the City manager and his or her staff carry out those policies.**

**I look forward to lending my energy and experience to these duties in the coming years. And also continuing to learn how to better serve the City of Bellevue.**