

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
Betina		Finley

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

Bellevue City Council, Position 7

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes X No

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

30 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

35 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Betina Finley

Address: P.O. Box 1257

City/State/Zip: Bellevue, WA 98009

Campaign Phone: 425-922-9000

Campaign Fax: 425-671-0788

Campaign E-mail: campaign@betinafinley.com

Campaign Website: www.betinafinley.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 Arts Commission	Appointive	2003-2009	Chair, 2008, 2009
Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Steering Committee	Appointive	2007-2009	Committee member

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.)

Bellevue is experiencing transformational growth and change. As our city matures, we need a fresh perspective on City Council. As a third generation resident, I have a passion for seeing that Bellevue has a strong voice that is responsive to these changes.

I'm committed to advancing Bellevue's high quality of life by preserving neighborhood integrity while also promoting sensible transportation solutions and sustainable economic development. I will work at bringing together our neighborhoods, businesses and regional partners to support a thriving business sector.

My goals for running are enhancing public safety, ensuring a sustainable city budget, promoting transportation solutions that protect our neighborhoods; supporting viable, local businesses and placing Bellevue at the table on regional issues.

I have many years of experience serving our city on boards, commissions and committees. Twice-elected Arts Commission chair, representative to the Bel-Red Corridor Subarea Plan, Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Steering Committee, and Eastside Heritage Center board member. I am a 2009 Leadership Eastside graduate.

I strive to listen to diverse community perspectives, work through tough issues and get results.

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

The primary qualities and leadership skills I bring to this process are through my experiences as a community advocate, a small business owner and a long-time citizen of Bellevue. This perspective lends to my leadership style:

- **include everyone in the process and be respectful of their ideas**
- **keep focused on the task at hand**
- **research thoroughly to be prepared to speak on topic**
- **maintain a positive attitude**
- **bring energy to decision-making processes, exciting others to new experiences**
- **reach across gender, race and income to identify with diverse individuals and groups**

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.

An early passion and resulting leadership experience came through my work at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. I was struck by how many children went into our court rooms to testify in emotionally charged situations without any preparation. With Prosecutor Norm Maleng's blessing, I was instrumental in helping start King County Kid's Court, a Saturday morning workshop where kids preview the court room – playing games, trying out the various chairs, and generally getting acclimated to this rather big, scary place. The results were the smiles and confidence they showed when they entered what was now a familiar setting.

As a facilitator and pollster helping develop public art plans around the country, I was drawn to learn more about what I was asking of others. Without a formal background in the arts, my curiosity led me to do the research to understand how art enhances communities. This led to my seeking and receiving appointment on the Bellevue Arts Commission. Once joining the commission, my curiosity led me to get involved in every sub-committee. During my term on the commission, I have helped lead the processes to establish large scale sculpture exhibits and allocate grant money to local arts organizations through a public/private collaboration, served on selection committees for juried art and navigated through the bureaucracies of multiple city departments to present several unique works of public art to our community. I am currently serving as Chair of the Commission; two years in a row. Leadership in this arena has led to my appointment on more diverse steering committees that have dealt with parks, land-use and planning for Bellevue.

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.

2006: Instrumental in organizing North Bellevue neighborhood, local newspaper and city staff around issues of out-of-character development.

2006: Planning committee, First Presbyterian Church Bellevue - Women's Committees and Studies;

2007-2008: First Presbyterian Church Jubilee work party site organizer and participant

2009: Representative to the Bel-Red Corridor Sub-area Plan; presented final to Council

2007-2009: Steering Committee Member, Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

2006- 2009: Bellevue Arts Commission Allocations Committee;

2006: Sculpture exhibit committee participant

2008: Chair, Bellevue Sculpture Exhibit "Sculpted Green"

2008-2009: Chair, Bellevue Arts Commission

2008: Advisory committee member for Bellevue Arts Museum Art Auction

2009: Juror, Bellevue Arts Museum Arts Fair

2001-2009: Member of Bellevue Public Schools PTSA and classroom, clinic, and events volunteer at Cherry Crest, Medina and Clyde Hill Elementary(s) and Chinook Middle school.

2007-2009: Leadership Eastside participant and graduate

2007-2008: Community Trainer, "Map Your Neighborhood" Emergency Preparedness Training

2008-2009: Alumni Committee, Leadership Eastside

2009: Organized work party to arrange Hopelink's new Kirkland/Northshore food-bank facility

2009: Eastside Heritage Center board member

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

A councilmember's main responsibility is to set policy and provide direction for their city.

I will be looking at the issues that come before me, listening to constituents and their position and making fair and informed decisions on policy matters. Councilmember's work closely with city boards and commissions, to gain a better education and understanding of specific policy issues. Much research, studying, reading and education, is required to be able to speak on topic.

Matters of fiscal budgeting are an essential part of managing a city. A councilmember will prioritize programs, allocate resources, with a focus on spending within our means while delivering the best in city services.

In addition, council members need to stay interested and current on regional policy issues. Locally, cities need to work as teams and be allies to one another. We need to monitor issues at the county and state level that will affect our city and region. A desire to be appointed and represent our city on regional issues is essential.

What is most important for me is listening to constituents, explaining to them the ideas of future-focused planning, devoting time to giving back for the betterment of my community, and having an opportunity to work closely with various and diverse individuals and groups. I make a commitment to do this with transparency, accountability and integrity.