

## 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
Elizabeth	A.	(Watson) Albertson

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

**Kent City Council, Position 6**

3. Are you the incumbent?                    x Yes  No

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

**Part of the 1996 annexation to the city, 26 years in the Kent Community**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**29 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Re-elect Elizabeth Albertson to Kent City Council

Address:                                PO BOX 541

City/State/Zip:                    Kent, WA 98035

Campaign Phone:                206-595-3627

#### 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)
Kent City Council	Elective	2006-2009	Chair, Planning and Economic Development Parks and Human Services Committee
Land Use and Planning Board	Appointive	January 2003- December 2005	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Kent City Council	2003

## 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.)

**I am running for Kent City Council because I want a council that balances economic development and diversity while honoring Kent's past. How we manage growth to reflect the needs of our community is crucial to our quality of life. I understand that Kent has small town charm, but big city problems. As a regional leader Kent must have a City Council that embraces this concept. I have proven leadership experience in this community.**

**I currently Chair the Planning and Economic Development committee and a member of the Parks and Human Services committee. Prior to joining the council, Elizabeth served 2 years on the Land Use and Planning Board. I'm currently serving my second term on the Human Services Commission, my other activities include serving on the LEOFF 1 Retirement Board, as a member of the Kent Events Center Design Advisory Group and as the council representative to the Weed and Seed initiative administered by the police department to serve residents of the East Hill area.**

**Traffic congestion wastes our time and hurts our economy. Finding cost-effective ways to keep people, goods and services moving is a challenge we can meet with clear vision. I will work with every level of government to make our roads and transit system safe and effective.**

**I believe that even during these hard times we can keep our strong commitment to fire, police and other vital services. As Kent continues to grow we must use our resources wisely. We must work together, set clear priorities, and get the most for every tax dollar.**

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

**I am hard-working and energetic with a strong commitment to public service; I bring my sense of humor and people skills to my role as Councilmember. I have a BA degree from The Evergreen State College where I studied public policy and community leadership. I served as President of Meridian Elementary PTSA, as vice-president for the Kent Area Council for At-Risk Children and Youth and is currently volunteers with Communities in Schools of Kent, which partners with the business community and the Kent School District to "Help kids stay in school and prepare for life".**

2. 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.

#### **Kent City Council**

**As the chair of the Economic Development Committee, I have made supporting innovative growth an important part of my service, from implanting and passing an ordinance requiring design review guidelines for new construction to supporting a Cottage Housing demonstration project, to encourage new styles of development and housing options for our community. Kent is in a transition phase and change is always difficult for many people at the same time, under the GMA and Vision 2040, we have to make adjustments in the way we do things. Some times my greatest asset on the council is my ability to meet with residents and explain how government works and then answer their questions directly in a way that makes sense to them. Most folks are upset, because they don't understand why or how things happen in their community, and as a council member any clarity I can provide is critical to my constituents.**

#### **Board President, Communities in Schools of Kent**

**As part of a strategic planning team, I worked with other community leaders to bring nationally recognized Communities in Schools to the Kent community. Serving as the Board President, I am responsible for board recruitment and development, budget development, supervision and hiring of program staff. Bring together the business community, social service agencies, service groups, government entities and the schools has provided me with the opportunity to work collaboratively with diverse groups, with varying interests. The skills I have acquired during this process will serve me well on the city council.**

#### **Land Use and Planning Board, City of Kent**

**As a planning board member, I listened to staff recommendations and public testimony and then synthesize that information to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. This experience has furthered my ability to critically examine all sides of an issue before making a decision.**

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.

**Mill Creek Neighborhood Council**

**Kent Historical Society**

**Kent Downtown Partnership**

**Land Use and Planning Board, City of Kent,**

**Communities in Schools of Kent, Board President,**

**Communities in Schools of Kent, Secretary**

**Community Council for Children and Youth, Secretary**

**Communities in Schools, Strategic Planning Team**

**Mentor for 5<sup>th</sup> grade student**

**Mentor for High School student**

**Meridian Elementary PTSA, President**

**Meridian Elementary PTSA, Vice President**

**Mattson Jr. High PTA, Clothing Bank Chair**

**"Outstanding Contribution to the Education of Kent Students Award" from the KSD School Board and Dr. George T. Daniels**

**Vice-Chair 47<sup>th</sup> District Democrats**

**State Committee Woman, 33<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats**

**King County Democrats Board Representative**

**Seattle King County Coalition For the Homeless, member**

**Childrens' Alliance, member**

**Washington Women's Employment and Education, Graduation Commencement Speaker**

**Relay for Life Team member, City of Kent**

**Certified Parent Educator, Taught parenting skills to low-income parents in SKC.**

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

**During these unprecedented economic times, keeping a sharp eye on revenues and trends is very important. I would support any innovative solutions to this issue; however, my greatest strength lies in my ability to communicate the depth of the problem and move others towards a solution. I believe my last 4 years of experience tackling these tough issues will serve the residents of Kent well. Approving the budget is one of the most important decisions a council member makes. Devising a budget that is realistic, yet doesn't compromise the services citizens expect and need from their city is a tough job.**

**As Chair of the Economic Development Committee I support the following:**

**I support both a market-based trading program and investing in green collar jobs. I believe that creating clean energy industries is important from an environmental standpoint but also important in creating jobs of the future. We are an innovative state when it comes to developing clean energy technologies - from green building and design to harnessing wind and solar power to leading in the production of biodiesel and fuel cell technologies. We can transform the industry base in Kent.**

**I support increased transit opportunities and will continue measures that expands transit choices. Commuters in South King County need real solutions for getting to and from work. I supported zoning and building standards that promotes more environmentally-sound construction but also promotes more livable neighborhoods. I have also supported density standards in Kent's downtown redevelopment zones.**