

# 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
Tom		Albro

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

**Seattle Port Commission, Position 4**

3. Are you the incumbent?  Yes  No

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

**29 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**29 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **N/A**

### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Albro for Port**

Address: **300 Lenora Street, #226**

City/State/Zip: **Seattle, WA 98121**

Campaign Phone: **206.443.1990**

Campaign Fax: **N/A**

Campaign E-mail: **kelsey@albroforport.com**

Campaign Website: **[www.albroforport.com](http://www.albroforport.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)
<b>None</b>			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
<b>None</b>	

## 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 the Seattle Port Commission to help lead the Port in fulfilling its promise of creating jobs, growing our economy, and stewarding our environment.

As a Port Commissioner, I will work to achieve this aim by focusing my efforts on:

- **Growing our job base** by improving the Port's competitiveness and protecting its industrial land uses.
- **Completing needed reforms** and holding management accountable by demanding honest, open management and governance of the Port.
- **Reducing environmental impact** with smart operating practices, innovation and wise stewardship.

To achieve all this we need the leadership I can provide on the Port Commission. I'm a proven reformer, regional leader, green job creator, civil engineer, and Eagle Scout. As a leader I am tough, independent, and dedicated to public service.

Meet Tom Albro, your candidate for The Seattle Port Commission



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

Throughout my childhood my father served in the United States Air Force. I grew up on Air Force bases and moved frequently - 12 times before graduating from High School - before coming to Seattle to attend university and start a family of my own. Growing up, our family values included service to others and "duty, honor, country". These remain my values today. That's why I've volunteered in my children's school, coached youth basketball, and served on and led so many civic efforts.

**I am passionate and committed to serving others and doing my best to make my community better. This is why I am running for the Seattle Port Commission now.**

I put myself through the University of Washington, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, by working nights as a Teamster at United Parcel Service. For the last 20 years I have owned and managed several successful small businesses (a construction firm, the Monorail operating company, and a medical documentation firm).

**I am hard working and I value the hard work of others. I am analytical. I am an effective and efficient operational manager and a strategic investor. I am an independent thinker and a team builder. I am an optimist and always maintain a hopeful outlook. I am determined in following through on my commitments and in working for what I believe in. I never give up.**

My past community service includes working on behalf of organizations and efforts with a county-wide and regional reach, such as The Municipal League of King County and the Regional Governance Project. I'm an alumnus of Leadership Tomorrow and a Marshall Memorial Fellow. These experiences have broadened my awareness of the challenges in our community and in our relationships with other regions of the world.

**I think globally and act locally. I see the economic, environmental, and governmental connections within our region and between our region and the world.**

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. **Together with other stalwarts, I helped save The Municipal League from going under.** In 2000 when I agreed to serve as the League's Chair, the League was insolvent and having a crisis in vision. Many long-time supporters thought its time had come and gone. Although it was a hard time, we dug in and never lost hope. We raised money, renewed regular communication with members, kept CEC (some wanted us to stop rating candidates), and resumed study committees. By the end of 2002 and my third year as Chair this is what the Seattle Times had to say in its recap of the year and the "Best of Puget Sound" -

*"Municipal League of King County: The organization has heightened its profile, weighing in on everything from the monorail measure (a "no" recommendation because tax money was needed elsewhere) to the Seattle City Light audit (the superintendent needs a confirmation hearing). This group of smart, savvy, nonpartisan volunteers offers a refreshing check on the county's elected officials and bureaucrats. New leadership under Board Chair Tom Albro has rescued the Muni League from blandness."*

- The Seattle Times, Dec. 29, 2002

- II. **Despite being out of service for extended periods of time due to a fire in May 2004 and a collision in November 2005, not a single Seattle Monorail employee lost their job or suffered a cut in hours.** Our property insurer during the fire was less than cooperative, forcing us to self fund both the carrying costs of the organization and the cost of rebuilding. In the end we prevailed in our argument with the insurance carrier and recovered our costs.

Not surprisingly, by the time of the collision a year-and-a-half later, we had a different and more reasonable property insurance carrier. While handling the costs wasn't as much of a challenge, it was disheartening to repair the monorail trains again after having just done so - but we rolled up our sleeves and got the job done. It took over a year.

**Today a major refurbishment of the monorail is about 70% complete. The Blue Train refurbishment is complete and the Red Train will be completed this winter. This project has improved the reliability of the trains tremendously and has greatly extended the life of this Seattle icon. Although on the day of the fire in 2004, many people thought monorail would never run again, I am convinced that *these* trains will serve many generations to come thanks to the refurbishment.**

- III. **I am also proud of growing a small home-based medical transcription company from 5 employees in 2000, when I began running it, to over 100 employees today.** We have successfully competed with other companies that send the work off-shore, while adhering to the values of hiring locally, paying well, and providing our employees with medical and retirement benefits and paid time off. We have now merged with a company based out of Boulder, Colorado. Nonetheless, we have no physical office on the local level. Nobody commutes, everyone works from home - enabling us to have virtually no carbon footprint.

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.

### **Civic Leadership**

1997 – 2004	<a href="#">Municipal League of King County</a> , Chairman (2000 – 2002), Board Member (1999 – 2004), and Candidate Evaluation Committee Member (1997).
2003 – 2004	Regional Governance Project, Chairman
2002 – Present	German Marshall Fund of the US, <a href="#">American Marshall Memorial Fellow</a> (2002), Regional Selection Committee (2005 – Present), <a href="#">Marshall Forum Planning &amp; Host Committee</a> (2006)
1999	<a href="#">Downtown Urban Center Planning Group</a> (DUCPG), Member
1996 – 1998	<a href="#">Seattle Downtown Circulation Study</a> , Chairman
1998	King County Metro - North Seattle Sounding Board, Member

### **Community Involvement**

1999 – 2004	<a href="#">St. Therese School</a> (K-8), Youth Basketball Coach
1991 – 2006	Campi Preschool, Leschi Elementary School, St. Therese School & Parish, various and ongoing volunteer work

### **Professional Background**

2009 – Present	<a href="#">MD-IT</a> - Managing Director - Seattle. Pro-Scribe and MD-IT completed a merger on March 31, 2009.
1999 – 2009	<a href="#">Pro-Scribe, Inc.</a> - President, Chairman, and co-owner. A home based medical documentation firm with over 100 employees and two United States patents pending (pertaining to the use and improvement of Electronic Health Records).
1994 – Present	<a href="#">Seattle Monorail Services, LLC</a> - Director, Founder, and owner. Private operator of the City of Seattle owned Seattle Center Monorail.
1991 – 1996	QPM, Inc – President and co-owner. Commercial/industrial/custom residential general contracting firm.
1989 – 1991	Coldwell Banker Real Estate & Alliance Property Management
1983 – 1989	United Parcel Service

### **Education**

2004	<a href="#">Leadership Tomorrow</a>
1985	BS Civil Engineering, University of Washington

### **Personal**

I have resided in Seattle since 1980. My wife of 25 years and I have three children.

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

In my view, the primary duties of Seattle Port Commissioner include:

- Earning and safeguarding the public's trust.
- Stewarding the public's past and continuing investments in the Port of Seattle.
- Insuring that the Port of Seattle manages its environmental impact, assets, tenants, and lines of business to best serve the citizens of King County, both now and long into the future.
- Guiding, supporting, overseeing, and holding Port staff accountable through Commission adopted vision, strategies, policies, and budgets.
- Reaching out to and engaging our citizens and elected representatives to make progress on region-wide priorities that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

**The most important of these is the first - "Earning and safeguarding the public's trust", because this is the foundation of all representative government. With this trust, we can succeed in just about anything we put our minds to; without it, we will surely fail.**