

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
David	C.	Bloom

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

Seattle City Council Position 4

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes X No

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

Since 1975

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Since 1975

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens For David Bloom

Address: 3822 42nd Avenue NE

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98105

Campaign Phone: (206) 453-5626

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Campaign E-mail: info@bloomforcouncil.org

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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)
Pike Place Market PDA	Elective by Market constituency	1980-1984	

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.)

Government in a democratic society exists to serve the people. But Seattle city government has become disconnected from its people. As I move about the city, again and again I hear people saying that we are headed in the wrong direction, that we are losing the qualities that have made Seattle such an exceptional place to live. Work doesn't pay a living wage. We are stuck in traffic. Our streets are falling apart. We develop neighborhood plans and then the City ignores them. We are closing our schools and talking about building a new jail. Families are being forced to move out of Seattle because housing is too expensive. Homelessness continues to grow. Our youth are dying on our streets.

We can do better. We **must** do better.

It is time for a new direction in City Hall. It is time to take seriously the notion of the "common good," that we are all in this together. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, "We are caught in an inescapable web of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

There are powerful forces that want to continue to pour our tax dollars into downtown projects while ignoring the larger needs of our city—the common good. But we have the power of regular people in neighborhoods all over Seattle who care about the entire city, who care about that "inescapable web of mutuality" that binds us all together.

To turn our city around, we've got to be bold and we've got to get organized. Here's what I will do when I am elected to the Seattle City Council:

- Build 5,000 additional affordable housing units above and beyond the goals of the housing levy and the homelessness plan, and require that when developers tear down affordable housing in our neighborhoods, they must replace it.
- Create a City initiative to increase living wage jobs.
- Develop (in conjunction with King County and other jurisdictions) a regional transportation plan that connects our neighborhoods with more bus routes, is less focused on downtown Seattle, and moves the most people at the least cost.
- Replace the expensive redo of Mercer Street with a less expensive alternative that actually improves the traffic flow and redirect the dollars saved to rebuilding our neighborhood infrastructure.
- Protect neighborhood trees, watersheds, and open space.

I am running to make these things happen, to return the voice of the people to city government and to the decisions that affect their lives, and to make Seattle a city that continues to welcome the broad diversity of ages and races and incomes and abilities and orientations and beliefs that we need to make our city great.

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

I have a strong belief in the value of public service. I have a deep commitment to social justice and to the role of government in our democratic society as the major vehicle to assure that our public resources are shared equitably and that our public policies reflect the needs and aspirations of the whole community without undue influence by the economically and politically powerful.

I have been described by my peers as being thoughtful, articulate, and hard-working. I have an ability to see problems, consider possible remedies, prescribe solutions, and work toward their successful implementation.

I hold an abiding belief in the public interest. I believe that citizen involvement both in bringing issues to public attention and in proposing solutions is critical to the success of the work of local government. I come from a background of community organizing in which the wisdom of this approach to problem solving has been affirmed over and over again and whereby the people feel more invested in the institutions of their democratic society. If they believe their voice makes a difference, they will be more likely to participate in the public process of making vital decisions that affect their lives. As a result our local government will be more effective and more reflective of the needs and aspirations of the whole community.

I will bring my experience as an organizer, a listener, a problem-solver, and a community leader to the office of the Seattle City Council.

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.

In 1979 I organized a city-wide housing conference sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle. A major focus of the conference was the new and growing problem of homelessness in Seattle. Mayor Charles Royer was the keynote speaker and by pre-conference arrangement he promised in his address to commit the City's resources to developing a new response to the problem. As a result, I organized a working group from the Church Council, local non-profits, and the City to develop a new shelter program. Within seven months we planned, budgeted, funded, staffed, sited, and opened the Downtown Emergency Service Center in the Morrison Hotel as a Church Council program. I continued to serve on the board of DESC for 15 years. It became an independent non-profit in 1984 and has become the leading multi-service program serving homeless men and women with shelter, counseling, and transitional and permanent housing, as well as serving the larger community with education on homeless issues and advocacy in the public policy arena.

In 1985 our urban program staff at the Church Council became aware that the City was proposing to place a bond issue on the Seattle ballot to fund an elephant house at the zoo. At the time there was a growing need for low-income housing in our city. I worked to draft a letter to the City Council and to the media asking if we shouldn't be housing people as well. This led to negotiations with the Mayor's office and ultimately to the decision by the City to place the first low-income housing levy on the ballot (there had been a senior housing bond issue in 1981). That \$50 million levy and its successors have been responsible for developing nearly 10,000 units of low-income housing in Seattle.

In 2004, following more than 25 years of activism, I took my experience as an organizer and social justice advocate to the classroom at Antioch University-Seattle to pass on my learning to college students. I have gained the appreciation of the university staff and faculty and consistently excellent evaluations from my students for the real-world, hands-on education that I have offered as the students prepare for their careers, many in public service and with non-profit organizations.

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.

- Founder/Co-founder
 - Seattle Displacement Coalition: low-income housing organizing and advocacy (1977-2009)
 - Downtown Emergency Service Center: homeless shelter, counseling, and housing (1979-1994)
 - Common Ground: non-profit housing developer (1980-1985)
 - Homelessness Project: transitional housing for women with children, now HomeStep (1989-1997)
 - Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness: interfaith education & action on homelessness (2001-2008)
 - Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action: social action training for congregations (2001-2008)
- Active member, Seattle Coalition on Redlining, organized to end redlining in Seattle's Central District (1976-1977)
- Led Convention Center Coalition: saved 8th Ave. overpass and generated more than \$2 million in funds to replace housing lost due to convention center construction (1983-1986)
- Inducted into Lambda Alpha, International Land Economics Society: first low-income housing advocate invited to join professional society of developers, bankers, attorneys, urban planners, academics, etc. (1983-1990)
- Leader in advocating for creation and passage of Seattle's first housing levy. (1985-1987)
- Organized religious community support for SEIU-6 Justice for Janitors and Swedish Hospital service workers campaigns for fair wages, working conditions, and benefits (1986-1987)
- Organized ecumenical support for development of Black Dollar Days (1989-1992)
- James Milam Education Award, Washington State Association of Alcoholism and Addictions Programs, on behalf of the Church Council of Greater Seattle for organizing conference "Moving Beyond the War on Drugs" (1993)
- Organized Church Council's AmeriCorps program: 20 positions serving children and youth in community-based programs across the city, now Sound Youth AmeriCorps (1993-1997)
- Boards of Directors
 - Downtown Emergency Service Center (1979-1994)
 - Pike Place Market PDA (1980-1984)
 - Friends of Youth (1996-1997)
 - ROOTS (Rising Out Of The Shadows): young adult shelter and Friday Feast meal program (2003-2008)
 - Real Change (2008-2009 – currently on leave of absence)
- Education
 - Organized dozens of local workshops and conferences on a wide range of urban issues (1979-present)
 - Led workshops at Children's Defense Fund national conferences (1993-1995)
 - Organized first "Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness" conference, followed by seven annual conferences to date (2001-present)
 - Teach community organizing, homelessness, and spirituality & social action, Antioch University (2004-2008)
- Organized religious leaders support for passage of Seattle school levy (1996)
- Organized religious leaders multi-week sit-in at Mayor's office to protest human service budget cuts (2003)
- President, Citizens for Shelter with Dignity: sponsored Initiative 71 to fund 400 additional shelter beds and increase Seattle homeless spending by 20 percent. Reached negotiated agreement with City to increase shelter funding by \$2.75 million and to fund a new day center. (2002)
- Organizer, Real Change Organizing Project: calling for end to Mayor's encampment sweeps policy (2007-2009)
- Contributor of letters to the editor and op-eds to Seattle newspapers (1979-2008)

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

The Council is the legislative arm of city government. Its duties are to approve and adopt the annual budget, to pass ordinances and resolutions that set city policy, to carry out the responsibilities of the council committees, to act as a check on the Mayor, to be a representative voice of the people of Seattle, and to set a vision for the future of our city. In terms of my specific interests I would like to serve on the Housing and Economic Development and the Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods committees. I would see my most important duties being to listen to the needs and aspirations of the people, to be guided by my principles of fairness, openness, and honesty, to keep my door open to the community, and to make well-informed and considered decisions in the public interest. I would particularly see my role as to implement the goals of my campaign: to set a goal of 5,000 additional units of low income housing, to pass a living wage ordinance, to invest in our neighborhood infrastructure, to establish a regional transportation system, and to protect our environment as we grow. These duties are important because they express my commitment both to represent the public interest and to fulfill the goals of my campaign. Through this I would hope to demonstrate my reliability, my integrity, and my leadership as a public servant.