

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
Jan		Drago

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

Mayor, City of Seattle

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes X No

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

27 years

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: Jan Drago For Mayor

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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)
Seattle City Councilmember	Elective	1994-2009	President - 2 terms, 4 years total

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Seattle City Council	1991

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?

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 Mayor because I love Seattle! I love the neighborhoods we live in, the arts, the culture and the parks. But most of all I love the people of Seattle.

I want to be Mayor because unless we make some leadership changes, we may not reach the reach the goals so many of us have worked so hard to establish.

The fact is that Seattle is losing its momentum and the respect of others across the state. I don't think any of us can remember a time when Seattle was less respected and had less influence in the Legislature or in the region.

And why? Because the "Seattle Way" has turned out to be the kind of politics that alienates people.

We deserve better than that. I think Seattle wants a trusted leader who works with people to get things done. A proven leader who knows the city and its issues.

That is why I am running for mayor. I have proven my ability to lead, to listen to people, and to work cooperatively with leaders in the region and in the state.

Working together, we can restore trust in city government and build a better future.

We must reinvigorate our economy, create more family wage jobs and put people back to work. Historically small business has led the way out of recessions. We must help our

business community, especially our small businesses.

We must ensure that our neighborhoods feel they have a partner in city hall. We must work with our neighborhoods by restoring the Department of Neighborhoods.

We want a safe city where public safety is adequately funded and effective. We need to rebuild the gang squad and focus on youth at risk.

No institution is more important than our schools. We need to partner with our schools and

We want every Seattle child to be able to compete in the global economy.

We need affordable housing throughout the city.

We must provide a social safety net for all those who being left behind that have fallen on hard times.

Those are the tasks ahead of us.

I am prepared and ready to lead the city that I love so much.

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

I believe that the prerequisites for public service are to genuinely like people and desire to help them, to be healthy and energetic and to bring a full range of life experiences to the job. I believe I meet that standard.

Public servants must have integrity and be honest. My constituents and supporters tell me they like my plain spoken honesty and my inability to “spin”. They know where I stand on the issues.

Elected officials must be able to earn and maintain the trust of their colleagues. I have demonstrated that trait by twice being elected President of the Council, for two, two year terms – one in 1995-96 in my first term and again in 2004-05 – by two different Councils.

Elected officials must also be inclusive, patient, tolerant and tenacious to be successful. I think those traits are demonstrated in my answers to question 3 in this section.

I think effective leaders have a passion for an issue or a project and the strength of their conviction that sustains them in this difficult job. It’s also important to not be too thin skinned since you can’t satisfy all of the people all of the time and you must make difficult decisions. I think those traits are also demonstrated in my answers to question 3 in this section.

And finally, in order to be a true leader, not a dictator, a leader must have a balanced ego and self confidence. My preferred leadership style, The Tao of Leadership, suggests that when a project is completed, the participants will believe that they did it themselves – the leader will give credit, not take credit. It is an effective style working with a team that has developed a level of trust. When necessary I can also play hard ball and let’s make a deal but it is not the way that I believe government should work but sometimes we must play the hand we are dealt.

- 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.**

1. As a new Councilmember, with liaison responsibility for Animal Control, many constituents came to me complaining of being harassed in the parks by Animal Control Enforcement Officers and Seattle Police Officers jumping out from behind bushes and driving their vehicles all over the Parks. I recognized this as a problem that needed a solution. We found that more households in Seattle owned dogs than had children. It seemed that the solution was to separate people and their dogs from people that didn't want to be around dogs. Thus began a three year effort to create off leash areas (OLA) for dogs in parks. Initially the effort did not have the support of Animal Control or the Parks Department. Historical records revealed that they had resisted any attempts by elected officials, including former Mayor Norm Rice, for decades. We engaged 15,000 people in the process through public workshops, public hearings, letters and limited emails during those years. Eventually we gained the support of Animal Control, the Parks Department and the Council. We built into the enabling ordinances a process for pilot OLA which could be made permanent, a process for citizens to initiate new OLA, and a partnership with Citizens for Off Lease Areas for stewardship of the areas thereby institutionalizing the process. We changed 127 years of Seattle history and established the seven original OLA. As they say, the rest is history and today the citizens of Seattle have taken the initiative to establish four more OLA all without controversy!

2. As a Co-chair with Councilmember Nick Licata for the Council's Monorail Committee, I found that this issue sparked more interest and comments, and consumed more Councilmember and staff time than any other issue in my 12 years on the City Council. We had responsibility for conducting the Council and the public review. Between March 31 and June 28, 2004, the Council held 18 Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings, three Full Council meetings, three public hearings and one brown bag lunch discussion dedicated to monorail issues and/or the review of the alignment ordinance and the Transit Way Agreement and Financial Review. We heard from hundreds of citizens during the public comment period at every meeting and received many letters and thousands of emails. Historically, major transit and transportation projects are controversial. We had the responsibility to hear all points of view. I believe that we fulfilled that responsibility.

3. As Finance and Budget Chair for the 2001-2002 budget, I initiated the most open, public, inclusive budget process in the history of the City with the first joint Council-Mayor budget retreat at Town Hall where we developed mutually agreed upon budget goals and objectives and initiated the first budget public hearings where citizens could call in and email concerns live during the hearing. We also tried to educate and help the public engage in the process by putting the entire budget online.

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.

Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust	Board	1997-2009
Trade Development Alliance	Board	1994-2009
Seattle King County Convention & Visitors	Board	2001-2009
Seattle Art Museum	Board	2004-2009
Port Jobs	Board	2002-2009
Sister Cities Coordinating Council	Member	2000-2009
City Neighborhood Council	Chair	1999
Sports and Events Council	Board	1997-2001
Institute for Motivating Reading	Board	1994-2001

Seattle Mayor's Homeless Task Force, Chair – Mayors Charles Royer and Norm Rice

Governor's Task Force on Homeless, Co-Chair – Governor Booth Gardner

Denny Regrade Crime Prevention Council, President

Downtown Seattle Association Neighborhood Security Task Force, Chair

Drugs: Draw the Line, Interim and Permanent Steering Committee

West Precinct Citizens' Advisory Council

Downtown Neighborhood District Council, Business Representative to City Neighborhood Council

First Avenue Association - member

Seattle Mayor's Small Business Task Force - member

Denny Regrade Business Association - Board

Denny Regrade Community Council - member

National Alliance to End Homelessness - member

Women in Unity - member

Washington Council on Crime Delinquency - Board

King County Women's Political Caucus - member

**Organized girls' soccer league, coached team in Manalapan Township, New Jersey;
chaired local parks and recreation commission**

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

The primary responsibility of a Seattle City Councilmember is to uphold the City charter, to approve the City's budget, provide for the health and safety, oversee the levying of taxes, and to authorize capital improvements. Councilmembers are accountable to the citizens. They must listen to and work with the citizens in the preparation and review of legislation. Councilmembers each chair a committee where citizens can make public comment at committee meetings, public hearings and at Full Council. Citizens can also contact councilmembers with constituent concerns which we work to resolve. Seattle is a strong mayor, strong council form of government and the council as the legislative body serves as a balance to the mayor – the mayor proposes and the council disposes.