

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
James	Jim	Flynn

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

City of Renton, Renton City Council Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

28 yrs in same home, but less than two years in Renton due to annexation

5. How long have you resided in King County?

42 yrs

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Friends of Jim Flynn**

Address: **330 SW 43rd St Ste K #359**

City/State/Zip: **Renton WA 98057**

Campaign Phone: **425 221 0883**

Campaign Fax: **425 988 0159**

Campaign E-mail: Jim.flynn@voteflynn.com

Campaign Website: <http://www.voteflynn.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)
PCO RNT 11-0502	Elected	01/20/2009	
PCO Maple Glen	Elected	01/20/2007	Democratic Caucus Coordinator 2008; Secretary, 11 th LD Dem.Org. Newsletter Editor 2007-2008
PCO Maple Glen	Appointed	01/20/2005	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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.)

The City of Renton is a great place to live and do business. Renton has a long history as a municipal service provider and proudly praises their accredited public safety, economic development, and maintenance departments.

The recent downturn in property tax revenue is perceived as a crisis by the City Council. The knee jerk reaction to Renton's misdirected management policies was for the city council to demand hourly employees accept management responsibilities and schedule pay cuts, furloughs, and reduction in force as a way to balance the budget. Meanwhile, the mayor and city council congratulated themselves for fostering an atmosphere of innovation and creating a new business model for the city. The municipal services that make Renton a livable city were reduced. The mayor and city council claim the old ways of doing business no longer work.

When elected, I will work with city officials to ensure that the governance machine continues to operate as a municipal service provider and not a business model. When elected, I am going to protect our tax investment assets, including human resources. When elected, I am going to work with the council to use existing funding sources to maintain basic municipal services.

Renton was on track to become the second largest city in Martin Luther King County through annexations. That possibility is fading fast as the Boundary Review Board voted eight to three to approve Fairwood Incorporation. Incorporation advocates view reductions in services as Renton being unable to provide basic municipal services. I am working with Fairwood annexation proponents to facilitate annexation to Renton, rather than incorporation.

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

The part of my career that is most enjoyable is when I am working as part of a problem solving team and we reach satisfactory solutions. As a first class petty-officer in the U.S. Coast Guard I often had a leadership role in search and rescue missions where I was recognized for a cool head and clear thinking.

Later in life as an the President and General Manager of an electrical contracting business I was able to find safe, satisfactory solutions to customer problems, with close L&I scrutiny, while working within a budget, meeting expenses and showing a profit.

I learned the intricacies of a municipal service provider for highway, aviation and marine transportation systems and utility maintenance and construction during my fifteen years as an electrician with the Port of Seattle.

I received recognition for demonstrating an active willingness to share my experience with others, including serving as an instructor with Puget Sound JATC and as an Electronics and Engineering Technology instructor at Renton Technical College.

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.

My proudest moment was in 1965 when the Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Admiral E.J. Roland, awarded me the highest honor the US Coast Guard offers, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, in recognition of my role in a dangerous rescue mission the previous year. In awarding the medal Admiral Roland wrote, "His perseverance, sound judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

In 2001 I had a leadership role in organizing Labor Unions, Churches, Teachers Associations, Civic Organizations, Non-Profits and individuals actively trying to stop the Port of Seattle from privatizing our public tax assets. Without political and media support we lost in our efforts but subsequently, through the networks that were formed from that activity, we ousted long time incumbent Commissioners, influenced legislation regulating Port authority and drew attention to Port financial shenanigans that led to Federal investigations of Port activities.

King County planned to spend fifteen million to upgrade to the KC Jail while basic human needs like day care for low income single mothers was cut completely and other programs supporting low income elderly, homeless, and youth were greatly reduced.

I worked with a group called NW LELO, in an organized activity, to mitigate the problem politically. Our group selected certain members based on their experience dealing with a council and their ability to present the problem quickly and facile. We targeted the budget meeting as the only one where we could be effective. We addressed each member of the KC Council individually at the meeting and asked if they were willing to reduce the amount directed at the jail to support the other programs. They agreed, some reluctantly, and only five million went to KC Jail, the balance to human service programs.

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.

I was on the caucus committee from the 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization for the 2008 Presidential Election. Part of my role was to find several locations for the precinct caucuses, check for suitability, i.e. parking, seating capacity etc., verify the terms the contract or agreements and place a deposit. On Caucus day I was Caucus coordinator for several precincts from the Benson Hill area. We had the largest caucus turn out for the 11th LD ever, it was successful and all problems, anticipated and not, were handled tactfully and to the satisfaction of everyone involved. The successful completion included vote tally with all 11th LD caucuses and submission to King County Dems.

In 2005, when residents of my neighborhood learned that King County would no longer provide municipal services, I helped establish a non partisan organization, The Benson Hill Community Progress Group, to find a solution to the problem. Once the solution was determined we worked with Martin Luther King County and The City of Renton to

facilitate annexation to The City of Renton.

We learned by face to face meetings with neighbors that there were a few minor objections to annexation, like Renton's fireworks ban or the possibility of reduced speed limit on the Benson. Most residents felt the primary challenge to annexation was financial.

We researched individual financial components and with that information started our petition drive. We were successful in getting enough valid signatures to get on the ballot. We worked tirelessly to promote annexation and it passed overwhelmingly.

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

The first responsibility of a city is to ensure public safety. The role of the City Council is to ensure the Police, Fire/Emergency and Maintenance Departments have adequate resources to do their job, public safety.

That responsibility is balanced by accountability to my constituents, by taking a sharp pencil and critically scrutinizing any budget item under my jurisdiction. While working with the mayor and the council as a whole, a council member must not only look at different proposals for a project but consider alternate solutions which will provide long-term economic benefits and make the city more livable.

A City Council Member may initiate, adapt and enforce city ordinances that help to make the city more livable.

The City Council must work closely with the Economic Development Department to retain and attract new business to the community that will provide family wage jobs and enhance productivity.

A City Council Member must be knowledgeable about the city governance machine, sources of funding and amount of bonded indebtedness, and alternate sources of funding.