

# 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
Bobby	.	Forch

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

**Seattle City Council Position 8**

3. Are you the incumbent?  Yes  No

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

**22 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**25 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: People for Bobby Forch

Address: PO Box 14055

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98144

Campaign Phone: (206) 658-5840

Campaign Fax: N/A

Campaign E-mail: bobby@bobbyforch.com

Campaign Website: www.bobbyforch.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)

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

Office Title	Year of Run

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## 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.)

We are in the toughest economic times in a generation.

I am running because I believe the Seattle City Council can do more to turn around our economy while supporting the values we believe in as a city.

If we are going to improve basic city services, our first priority needs to be getting this economy moving again. Our city needs to invest in strong public safety, new sidewalks, transit that connects to light rail, new parks and open spaces, human services and other basic infrastructure needs. However, our city is facing large deficits that leave us with little money to move this city forward.

We can't make those investments by taxing people out of Seattle. Here's what I will do:

\* Create a new Small Business Division within the City's Office of Economic Development to work with our small businesses to create jobs

\* Protect our industrial base along our waterfront to protect those living wage jobs and preserve our fishing industry.

\* Eliminate the employee head tax that encourages city businesses to locate elsewhere

\* Ensure new infrastructure projects are on-time and on-budget

\*Rework city bus service so it integrates with light rail and work with the new county administration to reduce costly Metro overhead and focus on service for riders

\* Reduce the wastestream (such as petroleum products and harmful chemicals) from major construction projects to protect the environment

\*Reduce Seattle stormwater runoff going directly into Puget Sound by 5% by leveraging new technology such as porous concrete

I believe I have the experience to get results on these issues. I am a Strategic Advisor in the Major Projects

Division of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). I am especially proud that in the last three years, the City's contracting with disadvantaged businesses increased by more than 40 percent.

I've helped our small businesses. I've made city government work smarter. I've championed our city's kids. I believe I have the experience and commitment to results to be one of your next Seattle City Councilmembers.

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

**I started working at the City of Seattle digging ditches. My experience as a city employee from general labor to strategic advisor ensures I have the understanding and skills to face this city's challenges. There are many candidates running this year for city council. Many of us have similar values. I believe that many of the candidates have the best of intentions. However, too many of the candidates lack specifics. I have laid out very specifically the goals and priorities I have for our city over the next few years. Additionally, I believe I can achieve results on those goals because of my experience working my way up through the city to becoming a Strategic Advisor to the Seattle Department of Transportation.**

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 have worked with historically underutilized businesses to ensure that our city's contracting process is more fair. Under my direction, the city's contracting with disadvantaged businesses increased by more than 40 percent.**

**Secondly, I am proud of my work to clean up our wastestream from major construction projects. We have stopped using diesel fuels and limited the amount of construction materials in our wastestream in the last several years.**

**Third, I have been a board member for the Northwest Children's Fund helping with their grants. We raised more than a million dollars each year which we gave to local charities working to end the cycle of child abuse.**

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.

**First, I owned a small business in our Seward Park neighborhood. I spent many nights making baked goods for sale the next day. I believe it gives me empathy with small businesses who are trying to make it during this tough economy.**

**Second, I have a long twenty year history of working within city government from general labor to strategic advisor. I know the hard work it takes to make government work for regular citizens.**

**Third, I just recently finished a stint as a board member at Northwest Children's Fund. I know it is trite to talk about children and our future but I believe it is so important to work with our city's kids to get them ready to compete in the new global economy, meet their potential and give them the tools to be the next generation of leaders.**

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

**The duties of a Seattle City Councilmember come down to two basic functions: legislation and oversight.**

**I believe every candidate should simply and clearly outline their priorities as a Seattle City Councilmember. I have stated my priorities clearly (see question 1). As they say, you need 5 votes in Seattle to make policy. I will collaborate with my colleagues and work tirelessly to pass legislation that moves these priorities forward.**

**Additionally, the city is in the midst of starting huge infrastructure projects like the deep bore waterfront tunnel, the mercer redevelopment and several federal stimulus projects. The city council has to provide strong oversight of these projects. We have seen too many projects start out with a solid plan only to lead to significant time delays and cost overruns. Our city can't allow that happen. I believe I have exactly the experience needed to provide this strong level of oversight.**