

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
Don		Gerend

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

Councilmember, City of Sammamish, Position #5

3. Are you the incumbent? X Yes No

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

30 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

44 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Don Gerend

Address: 22730 SE 23rd Pl.

City/State/Zip: Sammamish, WA 98075

Campaign Phone: 425-392-1412

Campaign Fax: 425-392-7531

Campaign E-mail: don@gerend.com

Campaign Website: _____

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)
Lake Wa School Dist Fnd. Advis. Bd Municipal Research Council	Appointive Appointive	2009- 2008-	Appointed by Governor
Assoc. of Wa Cities Board, District 7 PSRC Transp. Policy Bd Alternate	Elective Appointive	2007- 2006-	Chair, Audit Com., on 3 other com Chair, T2040 Working Group
Eastside Transportation Partnership NLC Inform. Tech& Com. Steering C Suburban Cities Association Sammamish Chamber of Commerce Sammamish Symphony	Appointive Appointive Appointive Appointive Appointive	1999- 2007- 2002-2003 2005 2005	Vice Chair Board of Directors Board of Directors Board of Directors

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Seattle Board of Freeholders	Approximately 1972

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 have been on the Sammamish City Council since 1999, first as part of the Interim Council whose duty was to get the new city up and operating, and then for the last two four-year terms helping the young city to mature. This has been an exciting, challenging and very rewarding journey for me and for the City of Sammamish.

Now that the City is established and thriving (Money magazine ranked Sammamish as the 11th best city under 50,000 in the U.S.), and financially sound (AAA bond rating and very little debt), the next challenge is to position Sammamish for the changing economy and region/world conditions. It has been my great pleasure to work with Sammamish citizens, staff and fellow elected during these ten years and would be honored to contribute my expertise and enthusiasm to the structuring of Sammamish for the future.

I see the world on the cusp of major changes, and they will reverberate strongly in Sammamish. We are particularly vulnerable to the whims of the petro dictators, and it is imperative for suburban cities with minimal transit to prepare for the inevitable future oil crisis. That means sustainability and alternative energy has to be emphasized.

I look to support the proactive transition to electric and hybrid vehicles as well as working with utility companies, regional and State electeds to implement smart grid concepts and other leading edge technologies. Other approaches to work on are next generation broadband (I am on the NLC Information Technology & Communications Steering Committee), more retail and commercial opportunities within Sammamish, better non-motorized facilities, a community center/teen center (1/3 of our citizens are under age 18), and working on changes in regional, State and Federal transportation priorities.

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

Sammamish is a high tech city with over 3,000 Microsoft workers plus many Boeing and other science and technology firm employees. This highly educated, technical citizenry demands much of their city councilmembers. I have found that I am up to the task. With my science and technology credentials, plus commercial real estate syndication expertise, I can engage in dialog at whatever level our constituents demand, and I have the patience honed from being a college teacher which is so necessary when helping concerned citizens deal with city issues. I also have found that I interact well with staff and my fellow councilmembers, being a patient listener while contributing in a non-threatening manner, but based on solid knowledge of the subject.

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.

Early in Sammamish's history, we had very little transit service. As our first Transportation Committee chair, I researched the commute patterns of Sammamish citizens and lobbied Metro until we got a new direct route from Sammamish to Seattle. Route 216 has been a resounding success.

Next I researched Sound Transit programs and found out that ST had a fund for transit projects in unincorporated areas. I pointed out to ST that Sammamish was unincorporated when the original Sound Move program was put together, so should qualify for that particular program. The Sound Transit Board agreed, and Sammamish now has a great park & ride lot at a key intersection paid for by the ST unincorporated transit fund.

While on the Regional Transit Committee, I was instrumental in representing the Suburban Cities Association position relative to implementation of new Metro service, with the outcome being the 40-40-20 agreement on new service for East, South and West King County.

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.

My primary focus in the past ten years has been serving the citizens of Sammamish. I have taken an active role in all aspects of local government. In public works, I was the first chair of the Transportation Committee and organized early on an "All About Roads Day" workshop attended by over 300 Sammamish citizens. I have been a Sammamish representative to Eastside Transportation Partnership and Suburban Cities Association and represented SCA on the Regional Transit Committee and PSRC Transportation Policy Board (where I currently chair the Transportation 2040 Working Group). In public safety I have been a board member of Eastside Fire & Rescue and have participated in police programs such as Neighborhood Night Out. In community development, the Council and Planning Commission and citizens worked closely with staff and consultants to put together a Sammamish Town Center plan for some 240 acres in the center of Sammamish. In Parks and Recreation, we have acquired hundreds of acres of park land, created new parks and worked closely with King County and Sammamish citizens to bring to fruition the seven mile long stretch of the East Lake Sammamish Trail in Sammamish. In finance, having served several years on the Finance Committee (including being chair), I worked with others on the Council to maintain a tax burden less than neighboring unincorporated King County, while completing numerous capital projects and obtaining the AAA bond rating.

Prior to the incorporation of Sammamish, I was a Precinct Committee Officer for approximately ten or so years.

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

The office of Councilmember duties are centered around setting public policy for the City of Sammamish. This is best done by maintaining a cordial working association with other councilmembers, a close working relationship with the City Manager, and a two way respectful and supportive relationship with the City Staff. It also demands creative, long range perspective, while dealing with emerging issues in a balanced fashion. The best interests of the City are also served by nurturing good networking relations with neighboring electeds, regional electeds, staff, business and non-profits, legislators and municipal electeds throughout the State, as well as our Congressional Delegation and the National League of Cities. But, the foremost duty, in my opinion, is to act as an ombudsman for the citizens, individually in cases where they feel they have been unfairly treated by the City, and as groups when the greater good of the City as a whole may not necessarily be in the best interests of a small group. I have been elected by them and must reflect their desires and best interests.