

## 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		Ginsberg

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

**Seattle City Council, Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**28 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**30 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of David Ginsberg

Address: PO Pox 9100

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98109

Campaign Phone: 206.551.2353

Campaign Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail: info@davidginsberg.org

Campaign Website: www.davidginsberg.org

#### 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)
Precinct Committee Officer, 34-1485	Elective	8/2008-present	Led the most effective voter registration drive in the District.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, 34 <sup>th</sup> District Democrats	Elective	1/2009-present	34 <sup>th</sup> LD Captain, 2009 Campaign for Change
High Point Neighborhood Design Review Committee	Appointive	9/2006-present	

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?

- 
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.)

**For too long our City Council has been mired in process. The Council oversees a city government that wastes precious public resources hiring outside consultants often designed to provide political cover for politicians we elected to lead and to make decisions on our behalf. I'm running for Seattle City Council to bring a results-oriented approach and private-sector experience to the Council. This city faces a number of problems, from the immediate problems posed by the economy to dealing with the generational challenges presented by the twin challenges of climate change and oil depletion. In order to meet these challenges we need leaders who understand the full range of problems from fixing sidewalks to transitioning to a sustainable society. And we need leadership that is more interested in the next generation than in the next election, that has the political courage to present a bold vision for change and the ability to bring people together around that vision.**

**I chose to challenge Richard Conlin for position two after he held a meeting earlier this year to discuss opening a farmer's market at City Hall. Voters had just passed a levy last November to retrofit Pike Place Market, which is walking distance from City Hall. More than 10,000 Seattleites had lost their jobs, and foreclosure rates had doubled. And yet, here was our Council President wasting precious time and resources talking about opening a farmer's market that would compete with Pike Place Market. This brought home to me just how much Mr. Conlin has lost touch with the daily lives of working people and families. Not once in the past 4 months of talking to voters as a candidate, or in the previous two years canvassing for Barack Obama, have I hear a voter talk about lack of fresh produce at City Hall as an issue of concern. People are worried about our failing schools. They're concerned about rising youth violence. They're concerned about our collapsing economy, about falling home values, about the loss of their retirement savings and the loss or potential loss of their jobs. These are the immediate issues people are concerned about, and these are the issues I'll bring with me to the Council.**

**It's my contention that we need new blood on the Council to break through what has become a dysfunctional system, and I'd like to part of this new wave of leaders entering the public arena this year, to help make it through these tough times and work with you to create a vision for a brighter tomorrow and a city we can be proud to leave to our kids.**

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

**I am an extraordinarily hard worker with a voracious appetite for knowledge and an intense attention to detail. I have often been described as visionary, able to see the big picture and what needs to be done to get there. This is what my career as a Solutions Architect required—that I could get a very clear idea of what the customer’s needs were, that I had an understanding of the tools available, their costs and benefits, and how they could be put together to create a cutting-edge solution to meet our business requirements with as small an investment as possible.**

**Throughout my life, from college to my professional career I’ve been recognized for building key relationships that have allowed me to be unusually effective. At WaMu this led to my being promoted almost every year, a rate that was unheard of in the generally staid environment of a large bank. I have a history of reaching out to groups with whom relationships have been strained previously and building the bridges that allow good working relationships to develop. Trust is key to building these relationships, and my discussions with city staff indicate that there is a lack of trust at city hall now. I’d like to help fix that.**

**More recently, out on the campaign trail I’ve found that people are really liking that I speak from the heart, that I speak plainly about my positions and that I listen intently and respond compassionately.**

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 was among those who believed that last year’s election was one of the most important in modern times. I recognized very early on the promise of candidate Obama, and as the precinct caucuses approached I set to work organizing my neighborhood. I made flyers and started canvassing my neighborhood, going door to door, talking to everyone who was home and leaving materials for anyone who wasn’t, encouraging them to participate in the precinct caucuses. On the day of the precinct caucus I’d out-organized my PCO who supported another candidate, and while she’d lined up 8 people for her candidate (twice as many as showed up for the precinct caucus in 2004), I showed up with nearly 90 people. Moreover, after I gave the pro-Obama speech two more switched to the Obama side, giving us 91 for Obama, and all of our delegates were awarded to Obama.**

**My precinct follows the boundaries of the newly re-developed High Point neighborhood, and when we looked at voter registration for the precinct it turned out to be very low, so beginning in March I started the High Point Vote Project, and set out with a team of committed volunteers to register every eligible voter in High Point and collect as much information we could about who they supported so we’d know who to contact at election time to make sure they cast their votes. My efforts in my precinct led the Obama campaign to ask me to serve as the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Captain for the campaign. I used my skills as a community organizer to recruit neighborhood leaders for more than 80% of our precincts (more than any other LD in the state), and voter turnout in the District was 86%. I’m proud to have organized my precinct, especially the new voters for whom this was their first election, and my District, to increase participation in that historic election.**

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.

**Second Vice Chair, 34th District Democrats January 2009-Present**

**Elected Second Vice Chair of the 34th District Democrats at January reorganization meeting.**

**34th LD Captain, Campaign for Change July 2008-November 2008**

**Responsible for recruiting and managing a team of 206 precinct-level Neighborhood Leaders, 20 Regional Organizers and countless volunteers, and leading them in carrying out the campaign's ground-breaking strategy. My district was the most organized, most active and most effective district in King County under my leadership.**

**PCO, SEA 34-1485 August 2008-Present**

**With a current population of more than 2,000 people, this new neighborhood is the most populous precinct in the District. While the precinct has historically had very low voter registration and turnout, we were able to turn that around, registering hundreds of new voters and seeing unprecedented numbers actually turn out on election day.**

**High Point Design Review Committee, September 2006-Present**

**Asked by the Chair to serve on the Design Review Committee due to my active involvement in and commitment to the community and understanding of design.**

**Member of the Founding Council of the Seattle Green Party. Used consensus decision-making to come up with a set of 10 Key Principals to guide the Party.**

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 as laid out in the City Charter and State Law include adopting city ordinances and resolutions, approving key appointments made by the Mayor, oversight of City departments and City-owned utilities, approving the City Budget and holding hearings on issues of concern to constituents.**

**Of course the legislative branch of our City Government has other effective duties as well, including providing a check on power of the Mayor and proposing alternatives to initiatives proposed by the Mayor's office. It is for the latter reasons that it's especially important to have a strong Council.**