

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
Tom	M	Hodgson

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

Kirkland City Council

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?

53 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Elect Tom Hodgson

Address: 10421 129th Avenue, NE
Kirkland, WA 98033

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: 425 827 9026

Campaign Fax: 425 822 0233

Campaign E-mail: tom@hodgson.net

Campaign Website: tbd

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)
City Council	Elective	2006 - 2009	
Planning Commission	Appointed	2000 - 2005	Chair
Park Board	Appointed	1998 - 2000	

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?

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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 believe that local government should be accountable to the citizens and not to special interests. In the past four years as a council member I have seen how individuals attempt to influence the council in improper ways. I have been threatened by special interests for standing up for the citizens' interests. It is very important to me to fight for fair and open government and I want to continue to do this for the people of Kirkland.

Kirkland is struggling with growth issues along with the rest of Western Washington. This presents opportunities to improve the livability of the city but also attracts those that would exploit it for personal gain. Development controversies have erupted several times in the last few years that have polarized our community. Citizens have banded together and spent their own money to try to enforce the city's comprehensive plan and zoning code against developers who insist on exceeding allowed zoning limits.

Part of the solution is ensuring that city staff understands the vision of the community and agrees with the goals of the comprehensive plan. I feel that our city could be more in touch with the wishes of the greater community and reject excessive redevelopment that is beyond the needs of the Growth Management Act and threatening to the character of our city.

Kirkland enjoys a high degree of volunteerism and civic engagement by its citizens. The city has a well-developed and inclusive process for creating policy. Unfortunately there is a problem with the implementation of that policy. When citizens participate in the process and their work is ignored they become cynical and disengaged. This opens the door for the special interests and begins a downward spiral of less citizen involvement.

I will work to honor the expectations of our citizens for responsive and accountable local government. I will never forget who I work for and will continue to support a process that is open, fair, responsive and accountable.

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

Fairness, objectivity, balance, vision, leadership and the ability to work with people who represent opposing views are my most important traits that I can bring to the office of City Council.

I realize that there is constant pressure from various factions to influence public policy, and those interests must be in balance with the needs of the larger community. It is important to have a sense of the values and goals of the community in order to make decisions that the citizens will respect and support.

My leadership style values decision making by consensus. I believe that there is common ground on every issue and I have worked hard to find it while serving on committees and on the city council.

Community leaders must be able to keep an eye on the vision of the city while addressing the current needs of the community.

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.

As a council member, I worked with the Cascade Bicycle Club to make Kirkland the first city in the state to adopt a Complete Streets ordinance which requires road projects to include facilities for alternate modes of transportation including bike and pedestrian. I believe that providing safe routes for bikes is an important part of our transportation solution.

I am the chair of the Kirkland Council Housing Committee. The committee is working to find ways to preserve existing affordable housing and provide new housing options for all segments of the community including cottage housing and mixed use. I was instrumental in Kirkland adopting a housing bonus incentive for redevelopment projects in light industrial zones.

I support transit oriented development projects and I'm currently working on one for the South Kirkland Park and Ride. In addition I support a new proposal for a 160 unit, 100% affordable development in Totem Lake being proposed by St. Andrews Housing Group.

As chair of the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association I expanded community participation in the annual picnic, was a strong voice for the construction of a pedestrian freeway overpass to connect the neighborhood safely with the rest of the city, and encouraged greater participation on city boards and commissions. North Rose Hill remains one of the most active and respected neighborhood associations in the city.

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.

2006-2009 Kirkland City Council Member

2006-2007 Member of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corridor Advisory Committee

I was a strong voice of support for converting the abandoned rail right of way to a multi-use public trail. The trail when completed will be a benefit to the entire city of Kirkland and provide an important non-motorized transportation alternative for the eastside of King County.

1999-2006 Member of the Totem Lake Task Force

I initially represented the Kirkland Park Board on this committee to plan the Totem Lake Neighborhood in becoming a vital urban activity center with new housing, transportation and employment opportunities. I continued work on the plan as a member and chair of the Kirkland Planning Commission and approved the plan as a member of the City Council. Now, many parts of the plan are being realized including a new transit center, expanded hospital campus, more intense residential zoning, and higher density mixed use zoning for the Totem Lake Mall.

1999-2000 Leadership Institute Redmond

I completed a public service project called WorldWise that connected Seniors with valuable life experience to transitional housing families to create greater self-reliance and speed the transition from dependent to independent contributing members of the community.

2006 North Rose Hill Playground Project

I participated in a neighborhood playground construction project that involved hundreds of neighbors and local businesses in a project that benefits the entire city.

1997-1998 Chair of the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association

As Chair, I organized several community projects including the annual picnic, pathway signs, information kiosks, and acted as liaison between the council and neighbors.

2002 Park Bond Committee

I provided graphic and marketing support for the successful Kirkland Park Bond providing new park land and development throughout the city.

2006-2009 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, Chair

I initiated a tourism branding study to define the qualities that are most attractive to visitors while remaining compatible with community values and goals.

2008-2009 Co-Chair, Active Living Task Force

This committee brings active members of the community together to promote healthy lifestyle changes including walking and athletic events for all ages and abilities.

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

The Kirkland City Council is accountable to the citizens of Kirkland in creating policy that benefits the greater community. Council members must represent the city in regional matters, oversee the budget, attend to labor negotiations, oversee and appoint members of the advisory boards and commissions and develop policy that is consistent with the vision and comprehensive plan of the city. A council member must also be able to balance the current needs of the city with a vision for the future. They must possess the courage to make the right decision even if it is unpopular.

Responsible budget management and providing for basic government services is critically important. Knowing the correct balance of taxes versus services is key to being an effective city official. Kirkland citizens expect a high level of service but also expect accountability in managing the city budget. Public safety is the core mission of local government and must be a funding priority.

The most important duty is to fairly represent the citizens in policy making. A council member must listen to all members of the community. Citizens rely on their elected representatives to protect their interests and must trust that the individuals they voted for will always act in the best interest of the community.