

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
John	L.	James

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

Sammamish City Council, City of Sammamish, Position #1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

14-years (City has been incorporated for 10-years and lived within the current city limits 4-years prior to incorporation).

5. How long have you resided in King County?

14-years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Citizens to Elect John James**

Address: **704 228th Avenue NE, #313**

City/State/Zip: **Sammamish / WA / 98074**

Campaign Phone: **425-868-6165**

Campaign Fax: **425-868-1077**

Campaign E-mail: **JohnJames@CBBain.com**

Campaign Website: **www.ElectJohnJames.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)
Parks and Bond Citizen Advisory Committee	Appointed	November 2006 thru March 2007	Co-Chairman
Citizen Councilor – King County Community Forums	Appointed	November 2008 to Present	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Sammamish City Council, Position #4 (Received approximately 48% of the vote)	2007

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 was a first-time candidate in the last election City Council Election in 2007, and I received nearly 48% of the vote. I have been asked to run again by many of my supporters from the prior election, and I agreed to do so because I desire to improve the quality of life for Sammamish residents. Sammamish is a wonderful place to live, but we do not have enough facilities for our youth and teens and other members of our community. I plan to work diligently to make Sammamish a better place to live.

As the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Co-Chairperson, I advocated for a comprehensive approach to providing more amenities for the city. I supported the Parks Bond that received over 50% of the vote on last November's ballot. I am committed to creating the facilities we need through partnerships and other means as soon as possible. By working together the citizens of Sammamish can create a legacy that will benefit everyone, and future generations.

In addition to parks and recreation, I see two other critical issues that I intend to address once elected to the Council: 1) roads and transportation, and 2) making sure Sammamish lives within its means.

As a Plateau resident who has worked in the community, I hear the needs and concerns of our families and citizens. I hear people's concerns over traffic, and I intend to do something about our roads and infrastructure in a smart manner. I am also being asked about declining real estate values and the pressures this puts on a City with a large residential tax base. If Sammamish is to maintain its appeal and charm then it will need a diverse local economy in order to generate necessary revenues to ensure its future and the best quality of life for all its citizens.

I am a 14-year resident of the Sammamish Plateau and an active member of the community with direct participation has given me a hands-on understanding of the issues that define the City of Sammamish. I am married to my Wife, Christy, for 22-years and have three boys (Sammamish has the highest per capita number of children as a percentage of the population in the State of Washington). I am a family member of the PTSA for Blackwell Elementary, Inglewood Junior High and Eastlake High School. I served as an assistant coach and umpire for Eastlake Little League, and past coach for Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association. I

am a former social member of the Sahalee Country Club, a member of the Pine Lake Club, and I have participated annually in a volunteer Community Service Day sponsored by a local real estate company that John was affiliated previously. John is also is a past member of the Sammamish Chamber of Commerce. Currently, I serve as a Community Councilor for King County Community Forums, and I am a Board Member for the Sahalee Maintenance Association for Sahalee homeowners were I live. Because of the broad connection I have had with the community, I feel that I have heard and understand the needs of the majority of the community.

My extensive business background will be an asset to the City. I have managed and run regional and national companies doing business in the area. Currently, I am a Regional Business Consultant with Coldwell Banker Real Estate responsible for Washington State and the Northwest. I look forward to the opportunity to hopefully continue to give back to the community by representing the citizens of Sammamish on the Sammamish on the City Council.

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

I like to help others, good listener, able to build consensus, strive to do the right thing, and I am able make tough decisions.

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.

1) Public Life - Giving back to the community... I coached soccer team and several of the kids were apparently troubled and having problems in school. At the last day of the season, their teacher came to the game and shared afterwards that their attitudes had improved dramatically and school work was getting done for the first time. The teacher continued to share that the kids attributed to their being on the team I coached and the influence I had with them. My involvement with the City of Sammamish has the potential to improve the quality of life for the Citizens of the City. My reason for running is to see the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee which I co-chaired turn into reality for the benefit of everyone who lives in Sammamish.

2) Professional - I ran a national division of a company successfully.

3) Personal - I am blessed with a wonderful family and I have been married for over 22-years, and I have three great children ages 17, 14, & 10. My first endorsement from my last campaign and the current one were from my wife and kids.

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.

Co-Chairman, Sammamish Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (2006-2007)

Citizen Councilor – King County Community Forums (2008 to Present)

Sahalee Maintenance Association (Homeowners Association), Board of Directors (November 2008 to Present)

Member, Sammamish Chamber of Commerce (Joined 2007)

Member, PTSA for Blackwell Elementary & Inglewood Junior High, & Eastlake High (Starting in 1997 at Margaret Mead Elementary)

Coach, Lake Washington Soccer Association (2004, 2005 2006)

Umpire, Assistant Coach Eastlake Little League (on-and-of since 1998)

Counselor, Blackwell Elementary 6th Grade Outdoor Education (2004, 2007)

Habitat for Humanity – Volunteer / Supporter

Volunteer, Windermere Community Service Day (2002 thru 2008)

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

The City of Sammamish Council provides direction to the City of Sammamish Staff in terms of the priorities and sets policy and municipal ordinances. The City of Sammamish has a City Manager, and the responsibility of providing leadership is shared by a seven-person City Council with an honorary mayor appointed by fellow council members. The most important function of the council is not only to make sure the City and public services are running effectively and efficiently, but also to set priorities beyond the day-to-day operations. In order to maintain the highest level of service it is important to hire the right City Manager and subsequent Department Directors and hold them accountable to the goals and objectives and adhering to the budgets set forth by the Council are critical to maintaining a well-run City. In addition, the city sets policy by establishing and enforcing ordinances and land use requirements and planning guidelines related to zoning. The City is also responsible for fire and police protection that are currently contracted with Eastside Fire and Rescue and the King County Sheriff's Department. Roads and transportation are also approved and funding authorized by the City Council along with parks facilities and recreational opportunities. Finally, priorities are also made by setting a budget that is within the means of the City's tax base, and making sure that the services provided are well-planned, well-implemented, and that they meet the needs of the population served in a financially prudent manner.