

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
Martin	H	Kaplan

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

Seattle City Council Position 6

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

45 Years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

60 Years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **N/A**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Kaplan for City Council**

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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)
Seattle Planning Commission	Appointive (City Council)	Jan 2005 thru Present	Co-Chair Land Use and Transportation Committee, Exec Cmte 4 years
Queen Anne Community Council	Elective by Community Council Board	2002 to present	Co-Chaired drafting the Queen Anne Design Guidelines 2007-2009
Pike Place Market Historical Commission	Appointive (Mayor)	1995-2001 2 Terms	Elected Chair twice 2000, 2001. Chair of Design Rev Cmte 4 yrs

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.)

My family has lived and worked in Seattle for over 100 years and I am running for City Council because I feel a strong obligation to help give back and advance my city that I love. It started for me in 1971 when Seattle was going to demolish the Pike Place Market and that was wrong, so I joined with architect Victor Steinbrueck and help saved one of our most cherished treasures and economic magnets. I have continued to serve my city and our neighborhoods ever since, turning my ideals into actions. I have been principal of my architectural firm for over three decades and have contributed to improving the character, quality, and economy of our neighborhoods, downtown, and industrial areas. I have served my community on many boards and commissions including the American Institute of Architects, Intiman Theatre and others. (see attached CV Addendum One).

If elected, I will hold the unique experience of contributing as an architect to many of the city's neighborhoods; helping save historical structures like the Pike Place Market and in turn being appointed by the Mayor to serve on the Historical Commission; advancing our commitments to the arts such as my 10 year service as a Trustee on the Intiman Theatre Board; holding important community leadership positions on my community councils like Downtown and Queen Anne; and service as a Seattle Planning Commissioner and Co-Chair of our Land Use and Transportation Committee advising the City Council and Mayor on critical issues like land use, transportation, affordable housing, open space, industrial lands, growth and density, and neighborhoods among many others. I feel it is import to leverage my deep experience and overwhelming passion for our city into a position of greater influence and leadership.

If elected, I will be one of only a few Council members who have started and run a business over decades, provided jobs to dozens of people, met payroll every week, paid many taxes associated with owning a business in Seattle for 37 years, and enjoyed great success.

These life, career, and community experiences have prepared me to provide both the leadership and collaborative skills demanded in effective and visionary leaders. I want to bring my 37 years of successfully bringing diverse constituencies together to find unique and powerful solutions to complex challenges looking into our future.

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

Now more than ever, I will provide an experienced and proven collaborative voice in analyzing, advancing and supporting important policy regarding growing our economy, strengthening our commitments to our neighborhoods, and planning for effective transportation choices throughout Seattle and our region.

I am known by those that work with me to be seriously considerate, committed to listening and learning, possessive of clear and competent judgment, and true to fairness and transparency. In addition to my steadfast nature to collaborate, I am decisive and build coalitions to achieve positive results.

And finally, as one who has a firm foothold in downtown business and within my neighborhood community, I am uniquely able to listen carefully to differing constituencies and find common ground. I am a very hard worker and have decided to seek this office because of a deep obligation to my city, not some move to satisfy ambition. I am working full time as a candidate, visiting face to face with people and groups throughout Seattle to learn of their dreams and disappointments. If elected, I will continue to be a voice for all of Seattle, business and neighborhoods alike, and continue my lifelong commitment to making Seattle the greatest city in our country.

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.

In 1971 I joined with architect Victor Steinbrueck and his leadership in saving the Pike Place Market. Seattle was poised to demolish the market in favor of urban renewal and I felt that was wrong. I worked hard with Professor Steinbrueck and our committee to lead and support a ballot measure and we succeeded. It was a tremendous victory and provided me a firsthand opportunity and unique experience to fulfill my commitment to public and community service. I went on to accept an appointment from the Mayor in 1995 to serve and eventually chair the Pike Place Market Historical Commission and continue to give back to the market community that I loved and felt was a vital and critical component of our city's urban fabric.

In 1982, before anyone was talking about global warming or using words like 'green' or sustainability,' I won the first American Institute of Architects NW Energy in Design Awards for a solar home I designed on Queen Anne hill. I have always felt a strong responsibility to my community and environment, and as such took the opportunity to lead my profession and in turn my community to recognize the power and responsibility of energy conservation and environmental health.

In 2005 I was appointed by the City Council to serve on our Seattle Planning Commission. This has been my highest honor and has had a large influence on my commitment to run for City Council. I have had the honor to act as an advisor to the City Council and Mayor on many of the most critical issues facing our city. As such, I have had the unique opportunity and responsibility to investigate and responsibly advance opinions on complex issues including industrial lands and affordable housing, economic opportunities and incentive zoning, our waterfront and viaduct solutions, light rail and Urban Village strategies, transportation opportunities and neighborhood business, and many more.

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.

In addition to the community service listed above and contained with the attached CV (Addendum One), please see Addendum Two that describes my work during that last 5 years on the Seattle Planning Commission. In addition, I have included several other examples:

- **In 2007, I recognized that the Townhome project model was not always producing compatible and supportive solutions to respecting neighborhood character and function. I took the issue from our Queen Anne Community Council to our Planning Commission and City Hall in an attempt to empower our neighborhoods with the opportunity to review these project before they are built, thereby allowing for better projects with neighborhood support. I helped convene a task force, sat on an executive committee, helped facilitate public outreach and stakeholder roundtable, and advanced solutions that included administrative design review. As I also participated on an ad-hoc committee to advise City Hall on our new Multi-Family Land Use Code rewrite. I fought to have this design review requirement included and soon it will become part of the code, offering neighborhoods the opportunity to comment upon these projects.**
 - **In 2006, a developer was forwarding a plan to demolish a community loved grocery store and replace it and the full half-block on Queen Anne Avenue with a two storey strip mall. Being both a resident and a Community leader, I worked tirelessly with others to convince the developers to respect our neighborhood and abandon the plan. As they had no intention to change their proposal, I took the opportunity to meet with them privately, since they both recognized my position in the community and my reputation as an architect. I convinced them to change the entire project to better reflect the community's wishes including a large housing component of affordable units, and a respect for not leasing the ground floor to a national tenant, but our local grocer instead. My commitment to collaborative and respectful dialogue in search for common solutions prevailed.**
 - **Finally, in 2000, my wife Leslie and I were blessed with the birth of our daughter Sydney, who is being raised with the deep values associated with giving back to our community. In fact as she began third grade last year and her grade was given the first opportunity to participate in the Student Council, she came to me for advice as she wished to run for the position. Her reasoning was founded upon her respect for my consistent community service. Proudly, I encouraged her. She ran, wrote a speech and won the election.**
5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

Seattle City Council members represent all the people in the City of Seattle. Among the many duties, the Council is responsible for reviewing and setting public policy, approving the annual budget, passing ordinances, and reviewing the performance of city departments ensuring the proper delivery of core public services.

Listening to and representing all the citizens of Seattle is the most important duty, along with providing a framework ensuring delivery of core services to all citizens, setting public policy and approving the budget. If elected, I will concentrate on first providing core public services like public safety and health, competent infrastructure investment, incentives to attract and retain business, and advocate for stronger public schools.