

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
Michael	T	Kovacs

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

City Council, SeaTac, # 4

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

23 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

23 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Michael T Kovacs for City of SeaTac Council 2009

Address: 3714 South 189th Place

City/State/Zip: SeaTac, Washington 98188-5259

Campaign Phone: 206-241-5038

Campaign Fax: N/A

Campaign E-mail: mtkseatac2009@earthlink.net

Campaign Website: www.mtkseatac2009.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)
N/A			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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 am running for council to help utilize my problem solving skills to improve the City of SeaTac government processes for our customers, the citizens. Currently we do not have equal representation to gather feedback from our citizens and their needs in all areas of the community. We are a very diverse community that needs to hear all our citizens input for improvement in their quality of life and including the businesses that support the city.

Education:

AA Degree in Quality Assurance Technology, South Seattle Community College

Work Life:

Quality Systems Auditor, The Boeing Company

Voter Pamphlet statement:

I have served for 8 years as Chair, Secretary and Re-Certification chair with the American Society of Quality Seattle Section. I have been employed for 19 years in business management related to the areas of self-propelled outdoor sporting goods, aerospace, commercial products, and government. I have managed business improvement through the use of financial/process metrics measurement, structured problem solving, and team building principles. The voice of the customer is always included.

My vision is a transparent city government that needs change with more equal representation for each neighborhood. We need to be accountable to control costs and spending while improving the quality of life. Our customers, the citizens of this community need to have their voices heard and acted upon to improve their quality of life, as it has not happened in the past.

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

Integrity

Fairness

Balanced

Care about people and their environment.

Open minded to all points of view on any subject.

Try to understand both sides of issues to gain a better understanding of risk involved with the decision making process.

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.

Obtained child hood dream of becoming a professional broadcast announcer. Gathered information from Federal Communications Commission on 3rd Class radio operators license with broadcast endorsement. Networked with local announcers on how they got their start in broadcasting. Took a class with a person that went on to work for CBS radio news and cover the Whitehouse during the Clinton Administration. Was offered a part time position after graduation from high school, then continued to work for 8 years playing 4 music formats, writing and reading news stories, producing commercials, and assisting in performing minor maintenance to broadcast equipment.

The goal was to wind down the broadcast career and work for Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) in the outdoor equipment industry. Developed a plan that took two years to execute in moving from Oil City, Pennsylvania to Seattle, Washington 1986. Obtained a part time position with REI and continued to grow for the next 13 years with REI and subsidiary Mountain Safety Research (MSR). Developed a career in quality assurance to become a receiving inspector, quality engineer, quality auditor, and quality management specialist. I have obtained success of being gainfully employed for the last 23 years.

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.

12 years of volunteer work for American Society of Quality (ASQ). I had the great opportunity to serve as Seattle Section Chairman, Secretary, Re-certification Chair, and certification exam proctor.

Volunteer work in other organizations such as Washington Trail Association performing volunteer work on trails. Support of local activities for National Parks in Washington State.

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

Attend two council meetings each month and other special council meetings as required. Chair one special committee meeting and attend as required each month. Develop positions and vote key items as needed.