

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
Conrad		Lee

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

Bellevue City Council #2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes
4. How long have you resided in this district/city?
 42 years
5. How long have you resided in King County?
 47 years
6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Nonpartisan
7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Conrad Lee

Address: 4409 138th Ave. SE

City/State/Zip: Bellevue, WA 98006

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Campaign E-mail: conrad@conradlee.org

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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)
Bellevue City Council	Elected	1993 to now	Various committees
U. S. Small Business Administration	Appointed	2002 to 2005	Regional Administrator
Bellevue Transportation Commission	Appointed	1990 to 1992	Chair

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

Office Title	Year of Run
U. S. House of Representative	2005
Washington State House of Representative	1995, 1997

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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 this office to continue making a difference. I bring and advocate a perspective to policy-making which will be absent without me. I was the first and only ethnic minority elected to the City Council. Although Bellevue is now even more diverse than Seattle, I am still the only elected Council member. With my pivotal effort we now have another ethnic minority appointed to the Council. As an immigrant, I advocate for immigrants and their needs as members of our community. Just as importantly, having the trust of the residents of Bellevue, I represent them and fight fiercely for their interests. That's one of the reasons I have been re-elected three times. With the changing demographics and community, I have proven to serve our City well, providing excellent quality of life, safe neighborhoods and necessary infrastructure investments with sustainable financial resources while keeping taxes lower than most cities in the state. During my time in office, we have done the hard work to make Bellevue a world-class city. I will continue to make Bellevue the best place for people to live, work and raise family; to leave it a better place for our children than it is for us. I am the experienced leader people trust and can depend on, especially during time of change and uncertainty.

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

I have Integrity. I am honest and responsible. I am reliable and people can count on me. I work hard. I am accessible. I am a work-horse and not a show-horse. I believe in open government, public involvement, transparency, accountability and result. I am fiscally and socially responsible. Finally, I have good judgment in order to make good 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.

Budget

“We budget what we need, not what we can tax”!

The first thing I asked in my first budget is how much money did we have and what we needed to do. I was able to get three other members to support this query. When city manager showed we had more money than we expected to need, the Council saw the logic that we did not have to increase any property tax which had been 6% automatically in the past. We did not have to increase it for the next 10 years, resulting in Bellevue having the lowest property tax rate in the state. King County and the State have since followed.

Immigrant Services

Bellevue population is now over 25% immigrants and mostly Asians. I have persistently asked staff what human service programs are available to this population. Finally, an increase in funding was made in the budget for a cultural compass program. We started the Wrap-Around services program through our neighborhood investment program with community partnership and requested Federal grant to expand it. The need continue. I am working with religious and community organizations to engage the community to serve this under-served population.

International Program

Bellevue is now an international city. I am leading the effort to engage the immigrant population in our City, such as Asian Americans, to reach out to build relations with their home countries through trade and economic development. We benefit by building a stronger community and healthier economy. 1/3 of our population were born outside the U. S. and 13% of our small businesses are owned by Asian Americans. By engaging them, we can build a stronger community as well as a more vital economy.

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.

I am constantly acquiring, learning, and sharpening skills in activities described in (3) above and others. I also continue to build relationships. It's building trust, demonstrating credibility and delivering results. I have been doing this for the past thirty years both as a community organizer, political activist and business person. I have maneuvered in some very challenging waters such as between political enemies, philosophical and financial adversaries. I have some failures, I am sure. But overall, I have been successful as I have not only survived but done well over the years.

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

City Council sets policies and directions for a city. We do it by hiring the right city manager and set priorities for the city manager through the budget. We set our priorities based on the values of the people we represent. We do it as their representatives they elected and by involving them and getting their inputs in our work. I have lived up to their expectations by being re-elected three times.

The most important duties are (1) staying in touch with the public to set policies and directions and (2) budgeting to set the right priorities.

(1) is important because we are elected to do that.

(2) is important because that's how we can accomplish our goals in a way that's sustainable.

During my time in office, Bellevue has grown and prospered with tremendous changes. Over 90% of the population surveyed graded our work excellent.