

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
Joan	L.	McBride

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

Kirkland City Council, Position # One

3. Are you the incumbent? XX Yes No

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

50 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

50 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **n/a**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Joan McBride

Address: 842 Kirkland Avenue

City/State/Zip: Kirkland, WA 98033

Campaign Phone: 425.889.2938

Campaign Fax: n/a

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Campaign Website: To be launched

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)
Kirkland City Council	Elective	1998	Deputy Mayor
Houghton Community Council	Elective	1992	Chair and Vice Chair

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 a fourth term for the Kirkland City Council because I believe my experience and leadership are needed in these uncertain times. I bring a strong historic perspective to the Kirkland council. I am a seasoned council member who works collaboratively to find solutions to Kirkland's issues. Our city needs leaders who have a history of positive service to the community and who can instill confidence that, working together, we can get through trying times.

Our national and state economies are struggling and we are feeling the effects in Kirkland. I bring experience and leadership that will ensure safe passage through this economic downturn. In my 12 years on the council, I have seen Kirkland and our region in hard economic times before, but by working together using balanced solutions, innovation and continuing reliance on our shared values, the city of Kirkland has made it back to prosperity. I am confident that I can help our city recover. As chair of the council's Finance Committee I bring a strong adherence to strong fiscal management practices.

I also believe that this is not the time for the most senior council member to leave. Kirkland is in the midst of huge changes. For instance, in November we will have an annexation vote that, if in the affirmative, will double the size of our city to a population of nearly 85,000. That doubling represents huge operational issues and Kirkland will need a steady, confident council to lead the way. In addition, Kirkland will have at least two new council members elected in November and our city manager, David Ramsay, is retiring in March of next year. He brought a level of excellence to the management of our town that will be difficult to replace. I believe I owe it to Kirkland to not leave in a time of economic uncertainty and management transition.

Currently, I am endorsed by seven former mayors of Kirkland and numerous former council members. This vote of confidence by the founding mothers and fathers of modern Kirkland is meaningful to me and I am grateful for their confidence in my abilities.

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

I am enthusiastic about my role as a council member. I believe the opportunity to 'do good' in local government is profound. There is nothing more satisfying than serving my hometown. I enjoy the robust civic discourse and the innovation that comes from a 'big tent' approach to city government.

In addition to enthusiasm, I believe one of my personal characteristics is a quality of professionalism. I am prepared for every meeting and I make special efforts to be informed on critical local and regional issues. Another aspect of professionalism is to judge matters impartially and I take special care that all stakeholders are involved in decisions that may affect them. Approaching my job professionally means that I take my role as a public servant seriously. I am a representative of the citizens of Kirkland – all the citizens. As a committed professional I hold myself to high ethical standards.

While I am practical, I am never expedient. I won't hurry the process or introduce extravagant new service levels to garner the appreciation of special interests.

Finally, I believe that a council member must have courage and I believe I am courageous. Local officials are often faced with decisions where important goals come into conflict. These can be emotionally charged situations and they call for a deliberative and thoughtful decision process. There can be committed persons with cogent arguments on both sides of the argument and it becomes the council member's duty to make the decision if consensus is not possible. When there are conflicting goals or controversial issues – I am deliberative and thoughtful as I go through the decision process. I can make the hard 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. Preservation of Affordable Housing in Downtown Kirkland. Prior to being elected to the Kirkland City Council I was involved in refugee resettlement work for my church. It was during that time that I became aware of a 60-unit multi-family complex in downtown Kirkland. It was perfectly located -- near to the bus line, near a great elementary school, short walking distance to the library, grocery store and all city services. Shortly after I was elected, housing prices in the area started to sky rocket and low income individuals were being forced out of our core downtown. I thought our city should secure the 60-unit apartment building for permanent affordable housing. The complex, called Plum Court, was privately owned. Working with our city's affordable housing task force and with the support of the city council, I worked with ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) to secure the funding to purchase the complex. It took a few years, and much work but today those 60 units are securely in the hands of a non-profit and for the next 75 years are dedicated to low income housing. I am very proud of that accomplishment. It took time to make the idea work; it took much patience, perseverance, and education of the neighbors and city staff. It was a collaborative effort with many partners and funding streams.**
- 2. Complete Streets Ordinance. Kirkland became the first city in the state to enact a Complete Streets Ordinance which mandates that new streets in Kirkland will be engineered to meet the needs of all users: pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists and motorists. Nearly three years ago, our council was introduced to the notion of complete streets by a transportation advocacy group. At that time, only a few other cities were considering the ordinance but as yet no municipality had taken that first step. 'Complete Streets' is an innovative policy**

and it fit with Kirkland's long commitment to a multimodal approach to transportation and our support for smart growth. I was proud to champion the Complete Streets ordinance. Shortly after Kirkland enacted the ordinance, Seattle became the second city to adopt a complete streets ordinance. And many more cities have followed suit. In 2007, the national office of the AARP sent a reporter to Kirkland and did a story for the magazine. When the editor called me from Washington DC, she informed me that Kirkland was now a national trend setter in transportation and we had beat out the other progressive cities in the nation that had been on her short list of cities to showcase. Then in 2008, the city of Kirkland won a national Smart Growth award, in part for our work on the complete streets ordinance. I was proud to be asked to travel to Washington DC to receive the award and give a presentation on Kirkland's approach to smart growth. Council members have to have courage and be open to innovation. And our council worked well together to enact the ordinance. I believe that this story is an example of the importance of collegiality, courage and openness to innovation.

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.

1. PTA, 1987 to 2005

Working as a PTA volunteer and officer when my children were small taught me invaluable skills. When working with parents, teachers and school administration, a PTA parent needs be able to meet the needs of those three distinctive groups while keeping the main focus, the children, in firm view. PTA is a wonderful training ground for learning how to conduct meetings that are inclusive and responsive. It is a great place to begin to develop the voice of an effective advocate. My time as a PTA volunteer and officer spanned the grade school, junior and senior high experiences of my three children. At each level I learned to be a better and better advocate, and how to involve all stakeholders in the decision process. There is no better place to learn consensus building than in PTA!

2. Vice Chair, Flood Control Advisory Board, 2007 to present

I serve on the King County Flood Control Advisory Board. However I am one of the few representatives that does NOT have a river of major significance in my jurisdiction. Major flooding in Kirkland is not an issue but for many areas, rural and urban alike, flooding is a huge concern both in terms of economic devastation and public safety. On this board I put on my regional hat, I am not there just for the city of Kirkland, rather I am working for the best interests of our region. I am reminded that no city is an island and that economically we are interdependent and we must as a region address the failing infrastructure of our dikes and levies. My commitment to Kirkland is not held just within the city's borders, it extends to critical regional issues that in one way or another affect the quality of all our lives.

Over the years I have served on many regional boards and each one serves to underline the need for elected officials to participate in the issues that affect our region and state. Early on it became apparent how important it is to establish working relationships with neighboring electeds. When we come together as a group in regional work, our trust and goodwill help tackle difficult problems.

3. Kirkland Interfaith Network (KIN) 1992 to 2000 (currently ex-officio)

Kirkland Interfaith Network is a group of churches that work together on primarily local social justice issues such as food drives, back to school supplies, alternative holiday fairs, letter writing campaigns, etc. The group includes representatives from a myriad of faith-based organizations. KIN taught me early on to respect and celebrate diversity. I learned to appreciate that while we might differ in doctrine we are bound by common goals for the health and welfare of the public. From KIN, I learned how to facilitate meetings that focused on our similarities not our differences and to keep our shared goals in sight. I also learned the importance of setting goals and developing a shared vision for the future. I also learned the value of setting practical and attainable benchmarks to reach the goals. Setting a strategic plan and measuring the outcomes allows an organization to look to the future with confidence.

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

The duties of the office include setting policy and goals for the city. We are also the legislative body of the city and oversee the budget. Our form of government is representative so we are the direct representatives of the citizens and therefore must represent all citizens without bias. We must deliberate in an impartial manner. We have a duty to be well prepared for meetings, to deliberate carefully and fairly, and to keep the city's goals in the forefront of our decision making process. Council members must abide by the 'appearance of fairness doctrine' and disclose any business or personal connections that might interfere or unduly influence specific decisions. In other words, it is important that city business be conducted fairly. I would say that the most important duties of a council member are to be fair and transparent, to ensure the fiscal stability of the city and to be accessible to the citizens of Kirkland.