

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
Mike		McGinn

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

Seattle Mayor

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

19 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

19 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: McGinn for Mayor

Address: PO Box 70643

City/State/Zip: Seattle Washington 98127

Campaign Phone: (206) 979-1461

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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)
Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group	Appointed	2007-2009	
Bridging the Gap Oversight Committee	Appointed	2006-present	
Restore Our Waters Committee	Appointed	2004 -present	
Transportation Implementation Working Group, Governor's Climate Action Team	Appointed	2007-2008	
Green Ribbon Commission	Appointed	2004-2006	
Urban Sustainability Advisory Panel	Appointed	2001-2005	

Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee 2	Appointed	2004	
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Search Committee	Appointed	2005	Chair
Seattle Department of Planning and Development Director Search Committee	Appointed	2001	
New Source Review Advisory Committee	Appointed	1994-1995	
President, University of Washington Graduate and Professional Student Senate	Elected by Graduate and Professional Student Senate	1990-1992	President, ex officio member of UW Board of Regents, representative to numerous campus entities.

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.)

To thrive, Seattle must make good choices to prepare for the future. I have set out a platform to support schools, technology infrastructure and local transit as good investments in our people and our infrastructure. At the same time, I am opposing the proposed viaduct tunnel. It is unfunded, risky, and threatens the ability of Seattle to fund basic services and make the right investments in our future.

We face tough economic times, and a rapidly changing world economy. We also face extraordinary tough social and environmental problems. That means we need to consider significant change in our priorities, and how government works with communities.

As mayor I will refocus our efforts and create working partnerships to improve our school system. And if, after two years, there has been no improvement I will move to have the mayor's office take direct responsibility for the school district as recommended by Obama's Education Secretary.

Seattle needs to be at the forefront of technology, which means we need to build out next-generation fiber optic to every home and business in the city. This will increase our competitiveness and attract good, family wage jobs.

We must dramatically improve local transit service by adding bus service, creating traffic signal priority for transit, removing redundant bus stops, and adding bus-only lanes and helping solve the financing crisis.

I have a record of achieving change by working with communities and with government to create change that reflects the values of Seattle citizens. Seattle has some of the most passionate, creative and intelligent people in the world. I have tapped into that in my work in my neighborhood, as a leader in the Sierra Club, and as a founder of the non-profit Great City. I have helped build teams that have made Seattle a better place to live and work, and moved us on the path to economic and environmental sustainability.

As Mayor, I want to continue this work, so that we can build the Seattle we believe in.

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

I am passionate about making our world better for us, and our children. That passion is evident in my work.

I value the wisdom and dignity of every individual. The best work is done when we bring out the best in others. I am a strong collaborator.

I believe in going where the facts lead us, even if the path is difficult. That's why I urged the Sierra Club to stand up on RTID.

I do not shy from a challenge. Which is why I started Great City, fought for the Parks Levy, and am now running for Mayor.

I have a track record working to bring people together to create change. When working with others I often find myself in a leadership position, and the leadership is appreciated.

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. **I am proud of my role building the capacity and effectiveness of the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club on state and local issues. From 1994 to 2006 I was chair or political chair of the state chapter, and remain involved as a leader in other roles since then. When I started with the Sierra Club its focus was on federal elections and public lands. Over the years, the Sierra Club has become much more involved in state and local elections and issues, which has led to impressive local results. We increased our capacity by doing the following:**
 - **Drafting plans with clear goals**
 - **recruiting, training and mentoring new volunteers**
 - **building strong teams of volunteers and staff**
 - **giving volunteers the tools to take action on behalf of the Sierra Club.****The Club's successes over those years were the results of many people acting, but I am proud of my role in helping lead. These successes include:**
 - **Helping elect friends of the environment to Congress.**
 - **Helping elect environmental majorities in the state legislature.**
 - **Helping pass Green Cars and Green Buildings legislation through the legislature.**
 - **Helping pass through the legislature a law setting targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and setting new more stringent standards for coal plants.**
 - **Helping lead the Sierra Club in opposing RTID, and supporting passage of light rail a year later.**

This last accomplishment was the most significant, because the Sierra Club could not rely on the partnership of any other group when it started, and conventional wisdom was that we could not succeed. Many of the Sierra Club leaders in these campaigns were people I had personally recruited, trained or mentored.

2. Upon Mayor Nickels election, I made it a priority to work to have his administration exceed the environmental achievement of outgoing administration, and take meaningful action on global warming. The issue was not easy, and in his first year, the Mayor set back the timetable to make Seattle City Light climate-neutral. We conducted a public education campaign about the importance of this issue in Seattle, and we worked within city processes to urge that Seattle reduce emissions from all sources, not just publicly owned sources. When the Mayor announced the Mayor's Climate Protection Initiative, I worked to establish a "Cool Cities" program through the national Sierra Club. The Cool Cities program implemented the organizing tools we had used in Seattle to urge local governments to take and follow the Kyoto Pledge. I was a founding member of the national committee that oversaw this program. I am proud of this achievement, because it showed how organizing on a local level can create national change.

3. In 2006 I gave up my partnership at a law firm to begin Great City (www.greatcity.org), to bring together neighborhood, business, environmental and community leaders together around how to make Seattle a great place to live and work, and a model of economic and environmental sustainability. Over the next three years we recruited volunteers, raised money, and created multiple campaigns and programs. Our vision was to create community coalitions for change by working directly with communities, and supporting communities with their priorities. Significant achievements included:

 - Helping pass "Complete Streets" legislation that requires that when streets are torn up for major maintenance they be rebuilt for walking, biking and transit, not just automobiles.
 - Starting the Neighborhood Assistance Program with volunteers who would consult and work with neighborhood groups.
 - Building the community coalition that put the 2008 Parks Levy on the ballot and running the campaign that passed it, leading to parks and green spaces improvements throughout Seattle.
 - Building a multi-neighborhood coalition, Leadership for Great Neighborhoods, to work across neighborhood boundaries on zoning and neighborhood planning.

I was proud that we achieved our goal of creating a new kind of organization designed to break down barriers between businesses and residents on creating strong communities. I was also proud that as I was forming Great City I drew support even from those who were on the other side of the RTID debate.

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 a husband, parent, coach, attorney, neighborhood leader, environmental leader and non-profit leader skilled in creating teams to solve problems and create positive change. I credit much to the example of my parents. My mother was a schoolteacher and then principal. My father built a career in providing community services.

I have a degree in economic from Williams College, and while there worked for two years at the local Boys and Girls Club.

After graduation (and a year of various odd jobs), I went to Washington, D.C. and worked three and a half years for Congressman Jim Weaver of Eugene, Oregon. I then worked for Oregon Insurance Commissioner Ted Kulongoski in Salem, Oregon for a session of the Oregon legislature. In both jobs, it was a hands-on lesson in how politics works – and how it works better for some constituencies than others. These experiences led me to believe that real change starts in communities, not in elected office.

I came to Seattle for the University of Washington Law School, graduating in 1992. While in school, I won the position of President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate. I oversaw the work of the other elected officers and staff in representing student interests and providing direct services to students. Notable achievements included preserving graduate housing slated for conversion to office space by taking our concerns to a City of Seattle Hearing Examiner, who ruled in our favor. We also won an agreement for the University to pursue health benefits for teaching and research assistants from the legislature.

In 1993 I began working as an associate at Stokes Lawrence, making partner in 2000. My practice was in business litigation. I represented both large and small businesses, as well as individuals in contract, trademark, employment, real estate, land use, and family disputes. In small cases I worked alone, in complex cases I managed teams of lawyers and staff. As a business owner, and as an advocate, I learned first hand the challenges facing businesses. As a lawyer, I learned both sides in difficult conflicts often have good reason for their position. I also learned when to settle, when to try a case, and how to do both effectively.

When a lawyer I began volunteering in the Sierra Club, and in my neighborhood, achieving leadership roles in both. Much of my work with the Sierra Club is described above. But I have also been asked to serve on Sierra Club national committees over the year, including committees with direct oversight of the Cool Cities program, public education campaigns, and political campaigns. Most recently, I was asked by the Sierra Club president to serve as one of seven members of the committee that nominates members to serve on the National Board of the Sierra Club.

In Greenwood, I focused on transportation and land use issues. I led successful efforts to build new sidewalks, and develop a plan for Greenwood's business district. Greenwood has seen sustainable new development without the controversy that has stalled housing and business development in other neighborhoods. The development has also increased walkability and incorporated "natural drainage" systems to handle stormwater runoff, which I believe is the first in a Seattle neighborhood business district.

During this time I was often asked to serve on Seattle committees addressing transportation, zoning, global warming, and the health of Seattle's waterbodies, as well as search committees for DPD and DON heads. As a result of this work, I was also asked to serve twice on state level committees on transportation policy and global warming. This work has led to the achievements described in this questionnaire.

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

I see the Mayor's office as having three primary duties. First is the provision of direct services to the citizens of Seattle. The breadth of those services is extraordinary and most of them are essential services, e.g., public safety, utilities, streets, social services, and more. The Mayor's job is to build good teams, work with them to set appropriate outcomes, and hold employees accountable to those outcomes.

The second major responsibility is to work with the city council and citizens to set priorities for the city, and reflect those priorities in the actions of city government.

The final duty is to effectively represent Seattle interests in working with other governmental entities, whether local, regional, state or federal.

These duties are complementary and each is essential to success.