

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
David	D	Miller

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

Seattle City Council, position 8

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

I have been a Seattle resident for over 16 years.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Please see #4

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Although the office is nonpartisan, I am a lifelong Democrat.**

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Miller for Seattle

Address: PO Box 75187

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98177-0187

Campaign Phone: 206-517-5520

Campaign Fax: n/a

Campaign E-mail: campaign@millerforseattle.org

Campaign Website: www.millerforseattle.org

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)
President, Maple Leaf Community Council	Elective	2007- 2008	Presided over council
Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board	Elective	2004+ (currently on sabbatical)	
Chair, Waldo Hospital Working Group	Elective	2006+	Presided over group
Parks and Green Spaces Levy Citizens Advisory Group	Appointive	2008	
Seattle Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (Alternate)	Appointive	2009+	

Seattle Police Department North Precinct Advisory Committee	Appointive	2006-07	
Maple Leaf Community Council Representative to the North District Council	Appointive	2008+	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	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 uniquely qualified to serve Seattle because of my experience and credibility within the environmental, neighborhood, and business communities. Seattle needs someone on the City Council who has fought for Seattle's environment, has significant business experience, who has the trust of neighborhoods, and who is committed to seeking intelligent solutions for the diverse issues our growing city must face. As a 15+ year business executive, green space and urban forest advocate, and neighborhood organizer, I can bring these skills to the Council.

I've been fortunate to meet and exchange ideas with hundreds of Seattle residents over the last few years on issues like the environment, parks, land use, and neighborhoods. This campaign is about bringing new ideas and a new commitment to city government.

Strengthen Neighborhoods

- Bring a neighborhood voice to City Council
- Revitalize neighborhood business districts
- Make neighborhoods safe for families

Prioritize People

- Promote policies that put people first
- Construct real solutions to homelessness, poverty, crime, aging in place, and affordability
- Improve city government by honoring citizen participation

Grow Responsibly

- Recognize the value of our in-city environment
- Recommit to the urban village concept to prevent intra-urban sprawl
- Promote the benefits of a vital urban forest canopy

Return to Basics

- Build sidewalks and improve pedestrian safety
- Spend prudently and invest responsibly in our future
- Base decisions upon real data, not interest group politics

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.
 1. **Critical Thinking.** As CEO of Biotech Stock Research, LLC, my job requires me to analyze large amounts of data and form a dynamic picture of a company's past, present, and future. I apply the same thinking to our city government – building my opinions and positions on data and extensive research, in combination with the diverse perspectives and needs of the people of Seattle.
 2. **Environmental Advocacy.** I have extensive experience working with the people of Seattle to improve our tree canopies, update existing laws, and protect the green spaces that make our city so beautiful. I am endorsed by Dennis Hayes, founder of the Earth Day movement, and many other environmentalists throughout the city. As our city grows, we need someone on City Council who can facilitate that growth in a way that preserves our urban environment, respects the uniqueness of neighborhoods, and lead the way in making Seattle a 21st century green city.
 3. **Coalition Building.** As a small-business owner, environmental advocate, and neighborhood leader, I understand the diverse needs of different groups impacted by city policies. I have a track record of balancing divergent opinions and finding solutions that honor all perspectives. I have received endorsements from many green business leaders because they recognize that City Council needs someone who can bridge the gap between environmental and business interests, positioning Seattle to lead the way in a new, green economy.
 4. **Active Listening.** One of the great pleasures of this campaign has been the opportunity to hear from so many voices all over Seattle. There is a wealth of intelligence and energy in our community, and when I am confronted with a new perspective, I listen carefully, critically, and compassionately. Seattle City Council needs to be more accessible and responsive to its citizens, and I am committed to continuing a high level of engagement as a councilmember.

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.

Preservation of our Urban Tree Canopy – I've led an effort to get city government to recognize the importance of our urban tree canopy not by just talking about it, but by implementing rules that protect it. I authored a City Council resolution that passed unanimously that directed DPD to better preserve urban forest groves. This led to a proposed new Director's Rule. I authored legislation that would have closed loopholes in our tree protection laws. This legislation encouraged the Mayor to author his own, which was passed with improvements. Working with Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders, city department staff, and other groups, we briefed the entire Seattle City Council on a tree inventory proposal, starting a conversation that is leading to recognition of trees as infrastructure – a necessary step towards more effective tree legislation.

Growing closer communities – While President of the Maple Leaf Community Council, we remodeled our web site and created a new outbound e-mail system to communicate with our members. Our site is now a regular source for information inside and outside our neighborhood. We have over 1,000 people on our e-mail lists. Our membership is at a multi-year high. While on the Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board, we reached out to neighborhood leaders across the city on several budgetary and land-use issues affecting us all. New lines of communication were created and we were able to share information that resulted in important victories on projects and concerns in neighborhoods outside our own.

Honorable response to a business setbacks – In my second year as CEO of the last company I worked for, we had a business setback right at the end of a record-breaking revenue year that resulted in the loss of nearly half our forward expected income. I spearheaded the plan to get the company back on track, making use of ideas for new revenue and reduced costs generated in an open system that encouraged our staff to be creative. We weathered the storm – better than weathered the storm, actually, and posted revenues the subsequent year that were nearly equal to the year before. We did this with no cutbacks in regular employee hours or benefits. I refused my year-end bonus to the company to help pay for employee holiday pay and make sure we didn't have to lay anyone off. Employee morale and customer satisfaction increased during this period.

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.

1999-present, CEO, Biotech Stock Research – Our business requires the analysis of complex data sets, decisions based upon those data sets, and ongoing monitoring of those decisions to make sure things are going as planned. This is an exceptionally valuable skill for a Councilmember to have. The critical analysis of competing data sets, and making decisions based upon those data, is the only way decisions can be reasonably defended in a public setting. Since I have no biotechnology background yet have to work with complex biotech data on a daily basis, I have also gained the ability to quickly assimilate even unfamiliar information and am pretty fearless about asking for help from experts in the community when I don't understand the information required to make smart decisions. Again, I believe this is an ideal skill set for a City Councilmember.

2004-present, Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board – My election to the MLCC has been an amazing experience. I've learned firsthand how much Seattleites love their city and what amazing skills they will bring to bear to make it a better place if you only ask. The expertise of my other Board members has been incredibly valuable. I've learned land use and transportation policy from one of the city's acknowledged neighborhood experts. I've watched as calm, collected analysis wins over people inside and outside City Hall where aggressive "hair-on-fire" responses – even if based on the same facts – would be rejected. My work with Councilmembers on behalf of the MLCC has given me insight into how each Councilmember works, which will be valuable if the voters are kind enough to hire me for the job.

1967-2003, my parents – My father turned his humble beginnings as a high-school dropout into a job that was respected by all in the community. Co-founder of the AWPPW union, and later working in management, his sense of fairness and honor continue to be an inspiration. My mother's work as a teachers' aide with kids left behind in our school system or otherwise ignored at home is one of many things that inspired me about her. The pride she felt when one of "her kids" broke through a particular learning block – pride not for her teaching skills, but always for her student – is something I remember fondly. Both Mom and Dad were active volunteers in the lives of community kids, young and old and their example has been a big reason why I've made the choice to get involved in my own community. I'm very proud to manage the scholarships given in their name to students graduating from my hometown high school.

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

City council members are responsible for setting public policy, reviewing the performance of city departments, establishing a budget, and passing ordinances, both civil and criminal. They must do this in a way that represents the wishes of their constituents.

It is the representation of citizens in the action of setting public policy that is the most important aspect of the job. This will be particularly true for the Council that sits in January 2010 as our city will kick off the process of rewriting our Comprehensive Plan in terms of how our city will look in 2040. This is a great and wonderful challenge, and our citizens need to recognize the stakes are therefore high in this election.

City Council also has a specific duty is to manage the city for the benefit of all its citizens – particularly those who either through job schedule or circumstance are not always available to show up at Council meetings in the days or evenings to speak with their own voice.