

## 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
Greg		Nickels

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

**Mayor, City of Seattle**

3. Are you the incumbent?       X Yes       No

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

**I have lived in Seattle since 1961.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**Since 1961.**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Neighbors for Nickels

Address:      3413 38<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

City/State/Zip:      Seattle, WA

Campaign Phone:      (206) 428-6054

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Campaign E-mail:      info@gregnickels.com

Campaign Website:      www.gregnickels.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)
Mayor, City of Seattle	Elective	January 2002-present	In addition to being Mayor; Founding member and Chair of Sound Transit Authority Board; soon to be appointed president of US Conference of Mayors
King County Council	Elective	1987-2001	Budget Chair, 1998

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Mayor of Seattle	1997

<b>King County Executive</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Seattle School Board</b>	<b>1983</b>

## 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 because I want to make a difference in people's lives.

We are in the midst of difficult economic times and we need to make the right decisions to ensure we come out stronger on the other side. Even though the statistics say we are one of the safest big cities in America, there are still communities in Seattle that don't feel safe. I want to help put people to work right away on projects that invest in our infrastructure such as light rail, replacing the viaduct and repairing our roads and bridges. I want to ensure that when the economic recovery happens, our community is poised to take advantage of it and create good jobs like we were able to do after I assumed office in 2002 in the midst of a deep recession and a city budget crisis. I have the experience and the record to keep Seattle moving forward over the next four years.

I set four priorities when I became Mayor:

- Get Seattle Moving.
- Keep our Neighborhoods Safe.
- Create Jobs and Economic Opportunity for All
- Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities.

We have made significant progress on all of these fronts. We've made progress with transportation, developing a tunnel solution for replacing the viaduct, expanding light rail, paving our roads.

I plan on continuing my "Neighborhood Policing Plan," which puts officers where they're needed. I proposed \$8 million to stop youth violence before it escalates by seeking out young people most at risk of perpetuating violence or becoming victims: repeat offenders, those who have been arrested and released, truants, students suspended for violent acts, and victims of violence who may think about retaliating.

On job creation, we have made great strides investing in our neighborhoods like Northgate, the U-district, the Rainier Valley, Broadway and developing South Lake Union into a biotech and high tech hub. Our neighborhoods are open for business.

And we have invested in ending homelessness and providing affordable housing, keeping Pike Place Market vital, and improving education through the Families and Education levy.

I have worked throughout my time in office to strike a balance between the competing priorities and diverse communities in our city. I have worked to focus on the basics and emphasize on ensuring that Seattle will remain a great place to live and work for decades to come.

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

Throughout my political career I've shown one trait above all others: leadership to bring people together and get things done. I have fought to get light rail built in our region for the last 21 years, even when it was not politically popular or when others had tried to kill the project. Getting a light rail system just doesn't happen, it takes leadership and tenacity to get it done. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the first line will open and within 15 years, we will have a mass transit system that will be able to carry 1 million people a day throughout our region. It took leadership and resolve to get this done.

When George W. Bush refused to sign onto the Kyoto Protocol, I responded to the void of national leadership by launching the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, challenging other mayors to join my pledge of meeting and beating the Kyoto Protocol standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Today, over 944 mayors representing more than 84 million people have signed on.

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.

An accomplishment I am very proud of will be the opening of light rail this summer. As I mentioned above, it has been a long and tough journey to get to this point. In 1988, I co-sponsored an advisory ballot with another young Councilmember asking King County voters whether we should plan for, finance, and build a light rail system. It was supported by over 70% of the voters. In 1993, I was a founding member of the Sound Transit Board and currently serve as its current chair. Every step of the way I fought for light rail. I believed that the public was ahead of the politicians and understood the need for an efficient mass transit system for our long term prosperity of our region. When light rail went down to defeat at the ballot in 1995, I did not give up, working to get a reformed bill back on the ballot in 1996, which the voters passed enthusiastically. I pushed for the passage of the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure after the 2007 Roads & Transit measure failed because I knew there would be a hunger for more and because we cannot waste time transforming the region. I believe light rail will transform our region, reducing traffic and pollution and giving us faster ways to get around.

In addition, I am proud of the progress we have made to improving public safety with crime levels at a 40 year low. Today there are more patrol officers serving Seattle than at any other time in our city's history. I proposed (and the voters passed) a Fire Facilities Levy that will rebuild or rehabilitate every fire station in Seattle. This last spring I launched an \$8 million initiative to reduce youth violence in our city by half.

When I came into office during the recession of 2002, the City had virtually nothing saved in its rainy day fund. Since then, I have built up the fund to \$30 million so the city could withstand the natural ups and downs of the economy. Thanks to this foresight, the City of Seattle finds itself in a far better budget situation than the state or county in what is undeniably the worst global recession of my

lifetime. Because we kept our fiscal house in order during the good times, we were able to avoid making any cuts to social services or public safety this year. While I believe Seattle is in a much better position than the rest of the nation to withstand this economic crisis thanks to our innovative companies and the city's unprecedented investments in infrastructure, we are not out of it yet, and it will take leadership to make sure hardworking families don't suffer.

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 began my affiliation with the Democratic Party when I was sixteen, the same age I became hooked on local politics. As a teenager, I was a full-time volunteer on the campaign of Jim McDermott (1972) and an intern in the DC office of Senator Warren Magnuson (1974). In 1975 I served on the Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Committee, and about that same time I was a board member with Choose an Effective City Council(CHECC). I was president of the Washington State Young Democrats from 1976-77. It was during these years that I discovered my passion for public service and my desire to make a difference in my community on a local level.

I served as Legislative Assistant to Seattle City Councilmember Norm Rice for eight years, beginning in 1979.

In 1987, I was elected King County Councilmember (D-8) at the age of 32, then the youngest person ever to hold that office. I served three and a half terms before being elected Mayor of Seattle in 2001.

This June I will be elected as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I am the current chair of the Sound Transit board. I've served as chair of the King County Board of Health from 1996-2001 and chaired the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board. I am also a member of the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats, am on the advisory council of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and have served as campaign co-chair of the last two school district levy and bond measures.

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

The job of Mayor is about delivering basic services to the public efficiently and in a way that wisely spends the taxpayer's dollars. As Mayor I have been committed to being a good steward of the City's finances and ensuring that we are spending wisely during the good times, but being prepared for the inevitable downtimes to still provide the core services when they are needed most.

I have focused as Mayor over the last 8 years on a vision that prepares us for the economic recovery by creating jobs here, making sure Seattle is affordable for everyone and that our city remains the great place it is today to live, work and raise a family for generations to come.