

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
Vicki	E.	Orrico

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

Bellevue City Council Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes x No

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

13 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

24 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Orrico for Bellevue City Council
2050 112th Avenue NE, Suite 210

Address: _____
Bellevue, WA 98004

Campaign Phone: 425.417.3519

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: Vicki@Orrico4Bellevue.com
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Campaign Website: _____

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 College Trustee	Appointive (by Governor)	2006 – present	Will become Vice Chair 6/09
Bellevue Planning Commission	Appointive	2004 – present	Chair, 2008 - present
Board Member, Washington State Bar Association Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board	Appointive (by Supreme Court)	1997 - 2003	
Citizen Advocacy Panel, IRS, Pacific Northwest District	Appointive (by US Secretary of Treasury)	1999-2001	Vice Chair (2000-2001); Chair, Small Business Committee (1999-2000)
Member, Washington Young Lawyers Division Board of Trustees	Elective (by Washington State)	1992-1995	Board Secretary

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Bellevue City Council	2005

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?

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 passionate about my community. We work for a living. We love and take care of our families. But everyone needs that one thing that care deeply about, that they love doing, that energizes them. For me that "thing" is community work. I have reached a point in my life where I want to leave the world a better place than I found it, and, given my skills and experience, the greatest impact I can have is on the local level. I have always enjoyed working for my various communities in one way or another, whether it is lobbying for legislation to benefit college students, raising money to build a new hospital wing and improve patient care, planning the largest transit-oriented redevelopment in the country, putting on Field Day events for the elementary school, or recruiting speakers for a forum on women's issues. This is what energizes me, gives me satisfaction. I love the people I meet, solving problems, helping people.

My work has been about crafting solutions with others: identifying the real issues, building consensus, being decisive, and moving projects forward. My reputation in this city has been one of facing the problems, listening to people, and looking for win/win solutions:

As Chair of the Planning Commission, I have helped guide growth so that we have strong neighborhoods, efficient use of our land and resources, a good environment for our businesses, and sufficient infrastructure to allow us to function smoothly.

As a Trustee of Bellevue College, I have worked to ensure that we have the options for students to become skilled workers our local economy is demanding in these times of changing environments and emerging technologies.

As a Trustee of Overlake Hospital Foundation, I work everyday to make sure that our growing and aging population has access to the best healthcare right here in our own backyard.

As a result of all of these different types of community work, I have learned how to work with others, to identify issues and solutions, to help build consensus, to be decisive, to move things forward, to set and accomplish goals. I want to give my energy and passion to helping Bellevue be the best city it can be. Bellevue enjoys many economic advantages that, temporarily, can mask inefficient governance. Despite the City's successes, not all members of city council are engaged and effective. I am running against a 16 year incumbent. A great deal has changed in that decade and a half – the face of Bellevue, our people, our culture, our issues. I believe it is time to change the face of the City Council too, with someone who will be engaged and effective, who will build coalitions to move us forward rather than obstructing the process. I will use my skills and insight to build relationships and craft solutions to guide Bellevue to a better, stronger and wiser future. Bellevue is a great place – to live, to work, to raise a family, to grow old. It is my home. I have chosen to raise my children here; I hope to grow old here; I hope that my kids find it a special as I do when it comes time for them to choose where to live. So I want it to be the best place it can be, now and into the future.

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

Determination/Dedication: I do not undertake things lightly; when I make a commitment to do something, I see it through to completion. As a result of my ability to get things done, I often quickly take on leadership roles. I am a strong advocate for the organizations with which I am involved, and will do what is necessary to get the results needed, whether it is identifying issues, brainstorming to arrive at solutions to problems, assimilating others into an organization, bringing people to consensus, or taking the steps needed to come to a resolution. I am known as the “go to” person, and a “closer” – the person you go to when you need to get something done.

Problem-solving: I have dealt with a broad range of issues in my 20+ years as a municipal and business attorney, and I am able to apply this knowledge within many different frameworks. Similarly, I have encountered a wide variety of issues, people, and problems in my diverse roles in community service. I have an ability to step back and see the “big picture” and then identify the keys to resolving the issue. I am also very effective at listening, identifying problems, crafting workable solutions, bringing together the right people, helping them come to consensus and resolution on issues, and taking the steps necessary to complete the task.

Articulate: I am adept at listening and learning, and articulating stakeholders’ various positions and the pros and cons of those positions. I can take ideas and express them well, to different audiences. I can explain to a constituent our goals and purposes and why we chose a certain route to accomplish those goals, and help them get on board with the decision. I can discuss the high level ramifications of choosing different alternatives with other policy makers and community leaders, and build coalitions among these decision-makers to help shape the outcome.

Interpersonal skills: I am a “people person.” I get along with people quite well. I am good at engaging people and getting people involved. I have also been successful at re-energizing boards and committees and giving them new direction so that they can function effectively. For example, during my tenure in the Washington Young Lawyers Division, I was known as the “committee troubleshooter”, and was placed as the chairperson of several committees that had lost their energy and direction, transforming them into productive committees. I can effectively build motivated teams from diverse backgrounds, helping them function together and come to consensus. The part of my campaign that I have enjoyed the most is meeting people; I value their differing perspectives, opinions, and the issues they see as facing the City.

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.

I believe that my greatest accomplishment and contribution is my ability to dedicate my time and resources to all of my “communities” - my family, my work, my city, the organizations that I help - and to maintain a balance in my life. I have always admired people who seem to do it all, and do it well, and receive incredible satisfaction from it. I feel honored to serve as an example of someone who can be a successful businessperson, mother and community activist. I take the stewardship roles which I have been given very seriously, and am delighted by my ability to really make a contribution to each. Here are just 3 examples of projects that I have helped lead to positive outcomes:

- Under my leadership as Chairperson, the Planning Commission formulated and adopted the new Bel-Red Corridor Plan, which provides for the transformation of a 900-acre urban site into the largest mixed use, transit-oriented development in the country, while restoring ecological functions, and creating thousands of new jobs, parks, open spaces, and affordable and workforce housing. This project began with the knowledge that a major landowner, Safeway, was vacating its facilities, and the vision to convert a large swath of land from light industrial into a new mixed use neighborhoods supported by light rail, new streets, parks and open space. It involved receiving input from a broad array of interested parties, including business owners currently operating within the light industrial designation, concerned residents who live adjacent to the area, interested developers, downtown businesses fearing a drain of their resources, and advocates for affordable and senior housing, environment, parks and mass transit. Under my leadership, we were able to work with all of these constituents to achieve workable laws and regulations that meet their diverse concerns. I want to be part of the council that continues to implement this tremendous vision.

- As a trustee of Bellevue College, I was a key proponent for obtaining authorization from the State Legislature to authorize Bellevue College to offer more four year degrees. This new blended college model of community-based higher education provides for a college that keeps its community college focus and mission at the first two years and adds very specific and targeted 4-year degrees at the upper division level. Such out-of-the-box solutions are critical in this economic downturn, to meet the needs of regional businesses seeking a skilled workforce and students seeking to invest in a better future through a bachelor's degree. I worked closely with Bellevue College President Jean Floten to articulate the issues and need for additional four year degrees in the state, worked with our legislators who sponsored the bills, and spent the better part of six weeks in Olympia lobbying key players for support. As a result, we doubled the number of baccalaureate degrees the college can offer.
 - In several leadership capacities with the Overlake Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, I helped fund building of the new South Tower, a five-story building with expanded emergency and trauma center, critical care unit, six additional operating rooms and new patient rooms. I was invited to be on the initial strategic planning team that launched this project in 2004. I helped build the vision, and the roadmap for accomplishing that vision. As chair, I reorganized the Donor Development Committee's mission and focus as the hospital's primary donor development team and created a framework for recruitment, training members in development skills, expanding the donor base, and realizing financial opportunities for years to come. Finally, I participated in the campaign that raised \$15 million to build this critical portion of the hospital, helping catalyze Overlake Hospital into a regional healthcare leader. I continue to build on our success by spearheading efforts to establish the framework for cultivating new volunteers, committee members, and trustees.
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.

Political and public policy consultant (2008 – present). I have learned a great deal about public policy through my current role as a healthcare policy consultant, working with the Washington Health Foundation and PhRMA. This experience has included forward-thinking healthcare policy issues, as well as managing the differing issues and positions of many stakeholders. I also gained insight into community outreach and voter motivation through my work as campaign consultant and manager for several King County judicial candidates.

Municipal and business attorney (1986 – 2008). I practiced law for over 20 years as a business and municipal attorney, before deciding to turn to more community-focused work. As a city attorney for other local cities (e.g. Issaquah, Medina, Monroe) with many of the same issues that Bellevue faces, I was called on daily to answer questions from staff and elected officials. This gave me a very broad exposure to a wide variety of concerns and problems, ranging from land use to governance to fiscal management. I understand the problems underlying these issues, have seen many different approaches to the problems, and know what is effective and what is not. I have had the opportunity to establish good working relationships with people at all levels of city government, from planning staff, to human resources managers, to finance directors, to city managers, to mayors and city council members. Some of the more significant issues I have worked with include Growth Management Act density requirements, telecommunications regulations and franchises, labor disputes, recodification of an entire city code, and revenue sharing issues between jurisdictions. As a business attorney, I worked with a broad array of businesses – small and large – in such diverse matters as commercial transactions, real estate, employment law, litigation and dispute resolution. Many of these legal issues regularly face cities as well.

Bellevue Planning Commission, Chair (2008 – present); Member (2004 - present). Through the Bellevue Planning Commission, I have become intimately familiar with the different components of the City of Bellevue, including its neighborhoods, transportation, economic development, human services, land use, diversity, safety, and fiscal management.

I have come to recognize the importance of achieving and maintaining a balance among all of these elements, and the danger of focusing on one area to the detriment of others. My service on the Planning Commission has proved to be a valuable complement to my experiences as a municipal attorney. As a municipal attorney, my focus had been on adopting and implementing legislation, or responding to issues after they arise, whereas my experience as a Planning Commissioner has focused on crafting the solutions that become the laws and regulations, and finding ways to prevent controversies from arising. Key projects that I worked on include diennial Comprehensive Plan Update; Critical Areas Ordinance; Factoria Area Transportation Study (FATS) update; Downtown Implementation Plan (DIP); affordable housing; Wilburton subarea amendments; and the Meydenbauer Bay Project. Under my chairship, the Planning Commission:

- Adopted the new Bel-Red Corridor Plan, which provides for the transformation of a 900-acre urban site into the largest mixed use, transit-oriented development in the country, while restoring ecological functions, and creating thousands of new jobs, parks, open spaces, and affordable and workforce housing. Bel-Red Corridor Plan
- Formulated the Neighborhood Livability Initiative, creating workable solutions to address residents' concerns about the impacts of infill and redevelopment on the character and livability of Bellevue neighborhoods, such as size and scale limitations on homes and tree retention.
- Recommended to the City Council Light Rail Best Practices to address issues such as light rail design, construction, operation and mitigation, in order to maximize local opportunities and minimize local impacts.

Bellevue College, Trustee (2006 – present); Co-Chair, Capital Campaign Planning Task Force. I was selected by Governor Gregoire to serve a five year term as a trustee. I was quickly given a leadership role in formulating strategic implementation of a new capital campaign to remove obstacles to student success and provide the skilled workers our local economy needs, through technology, programs, improved equipment and facilities. As discussed above, I undertook extensive lobbying efforts to pass new legislation to enable Bellevue College to offer more four year degrees, creating a blended college to meet higher demands from regional businesses seeking a skilled workforce and students seeking to invest in a better future through a bachelor's degree. Through my work with the College, I have honed my relationship-building skills, recognizing the importance of our City's great institutions, such as Bellevue College and Overlake Hospital, to the overall success of health and success of the City.

Overlake Hospital Foundation, Member, Board of Trustees (2003 - present); Chairperson, Donor Relations (2004 - 2007); Member, Strategic Planning Committee (2008 – present); Member, Board Governance and Development (2003 - present); Member, South Tower Campaign Strategic Planning Committee (2004 - 2005). Member, Executive Committee (2004 - 2007). I was a critical leader in expanding the hospital's donor base. I helped reorganize the mission and focus of hospital's primary donor development team and created framework for recruitment, training members in development skills, expansion of donor base, and realization of financial opportunities. My leadership helped to raise \$15 million to build the South Tower, a five-story building with expanded emergency and trauma center, critical care unit, six additional operating rooms and new patient rooms. Overlake Hospital Foundation. Under my chairship of the Donor Development Committee, we closed a \$24.5 million capital campaign providing support for new programs, access to leading-edge technology, enhancement of patient care and funding for capital projects. Through my work with the Overlake Hospital Foundation, I have come to recognize the importance of supporting local businesses and institutions that are integral to the city. The Foundation was undergoing internal changes when I joined, and experiencing the disruption and difficulties that often accompany with change. Early on, I stepped into several leadership positions within the Foundation, where we had to do a great deal of team- and consensus-building among both staff and volunteers; find ways to meet to the hospital's increasing budget needs; bring members of diverse communities onto the Foundation team; and create

the framework to bring continuity to ongoing programs.

Center For Women & Democracy, Board Member (2006 - present); Chair, Food for Thought Monthly Speakers Forum (2006 - present); Member, Board Development Committee (2006 - present); Member, 2007 Chilean Delegation. As chair of Food for Thought, I engage captivating speakers for our monthly speakers' forum on women's issues. I have successfully tripled the attendance and membership in the Center for Women and Democracy through Food for Thought. I have also recruited top level candidates to serve as board members. As a member of the Chilean delegation, a week long intensive visit to Chile, I learned about leadership, business and politics on a global scale while focusing on the exchange of ideas and the professional and personal obstacles women face as leaders.

Somerset Elementary School Parent Teacher Student Association ("PTSA"), Board Member (2008 – present); Member, (2000 to present). Through my work on the PTSA, I have gained a better understanding of how quality public education can transform children and communities.

Graduate Of Advance Bellevue (now called Leadership Eastside), Class of 2003. Through Advance Bellevue, I learned about the various areas of the greater Eastside including governance, community organizations and institutions, and regional issues. Advance Bellevue also taught me many valuable skills such as team work and team building, problem resolution, and community outreach.

Bellevue Charter Commission (2003). I was a successful candidate in the 2003 Bellevue Charter Commission election for Freeholder Position #14. As a result of my involvement with the charter process, I learned essential details about how the city is governed, and what makes that governance effective. I learned about the diverse communities within Bellevue, and their common as well as differing goals and values. I also learned how to do effective community outreach. The process also gave me valuable insight into our citizens' view of good governance and the services they value.

Washington State Bar Association, Board Member, Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board (1997 - 2003); Washington Young Lawyers Division: Board Trustee (1992-95), Board Secretary (1993); Chairperson, Community Service Committee (1996-97); Chairperson, CLE Committee (1995-96); Chairperson, Legislation Committee (1990-92). My many positions in the Bar Association gave me wide experiences in formulating and drafting proposals, representing the interests of the community, working with people from diverse backgrounds, and helping people resolve their disputes. As a member of the MCLE Board (appointed by the Supreme Court), I helped draft and enforce the rules governing continuing education requirements for attorneys. In particular, I personally spearheaded projects to provide basic skills training for young lawyers, and access to services for indigent members. In my service with the Young Lawyers Division, I worked with many groups over a wide range of issues. Projects with which I was involved included review of the judicial selection process, improving professionalism in legal practice, and developing and implementing community programs such as the Stay in School Video, the GAAP project for providing affordable legal services, and the Aspiring Youth Project afterschool program for middle-schoolers.

Citizen Advocacy Panel ("CAP"), IRS Pacific Northwest District (Appointed by U.S. Secretary of Treasury Robert Rubin): Vice Chair (2000-2001); Chair Small Business Committee (1999-2000). The CAP was a pilot project formed to identify and develop solutions to systemic problem within the IRS. The CAP was made up of twelve members from our district of Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Hawaii (selected from 900 applicants). The CAP was a tremendous opportunity both in terms of the high level training we received as well as our extensive community interaction. Because we were a newly created body, the federal government devoted a great deal of resources to skills training for the panel including

team building, community outreach, and identifying and solving problems. The Panel held public hearings throughout the Pacific Northwest, assisted taxpayers with problems, and worked with the IRS to identify and develop resolutions to systemic legislative and administrative problems in the application of the Internal Revenue Code. As Vice Chair of the Panel, I played a key role in formulating proposals and helping bring the Panel to consensus on issues. As Chair of the Small Business subcommittee, I worked to address issues facing small businesses. My service on the CAP also helped me better understand regional issues, and the role local communities can play in guiding resolution of those issues.

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

The duties of a city council fall into four general areas, all of which are important and essential to one another. Balance among these areas is critical; focusing too much on one area can affect the balance of fundamental elements within the city.

Policy guidance for city planning, projects and operations: It is critical to establish a vision and goals for the City to follow and implement. Without this high level planning, the City will not have an overall direction for growth and progress - a plan for its future. Community goals identify components of the community vision and provide direction for implementation. Public policy determines what services will be provided to the residents and the level of those services, what kinds of development will occur in the City, what the City's future will be. This process of assessing need and establishing priorities is a key function of local government. It is a process that can be used to build citizen support, encourage efficiency, and improve productivity. Policy-making is about visions, goals, choices and possibilities. Alignment of vision and goals with the community builds trust and community confidence; limited resources go further where there is this alignment and trust.

Fiscal management, including setting the budget, approving fees and taxes, and directing funding: Clearly, without careful fiscal management, the City will have no way to fund its goals and visions, and to provide citizens with the services they value. Fiscal management addresses the allocation of scarce financial resources to achieve the community's vision, accomplish goals and objectives, implement the comprehensive plan, and provide services. The budget can be one of the strongest policy-making tools. It defines the spending and sets priorities for numerous other policy decisions. There is rarely enough money to do all the things that the community desires. Thus, budgets and capital facilities plans must prioritize.

Formulating and enacting legislation: It is important to create good, fair laws that are easy to understand and implement. It is essential that laws be flexible so that they can withstand the ever-changing nature and needs of the city and its residents. Lawmakers must take into consideration the potential impact of laws to prevent unanticipated consequences.

Representing constituent concerns and interests, and seeking ways to resolve community problems and issues: City council members are elected to represent their constituents. We must be engaged, accessible and responsive to our citizens, in a manner that best serves the community. Legitimate community interests have multiple and often conflicting goals. We must find ways to bring our community together over issues, not divide them. This is the essence of the policy-making challenge.