

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
Dana	L	Ralph

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

Kent City Council, Position 4

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

36 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

36 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Committee for the Election of Dana Ralph

Address: 23307 98th Ave S

City/State/Zip: Kent, WA 98031

Campaign Phone: 253-332-0760

Campaign Fax: 253-854-9860

Campaign E-mail: Theralphs4@msn.com

Campaign Website: n/a

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)
Land Use and Planning	Appointive		3 yrs as Vice Chair Currently serving as Chair
Kent Arts Commission	Appointive		2 ½ years as Chair 2 years as Vice Chair

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.)

I feel very strongly that every citizen has a responsibility to their community. A community cannot survive let alone thrive without the involvement of its citizens. I was raised in the Kent Community and am now raising my family here. As a result, I have strong ties to this City and am fully invested in its growth.

I have spent the last 6 years becoming involved at the city administration level. I currently serve as Chair of the Land Use and Planning Board. I am also in my second year as President of the Kent Arts Commission. I feel that the experience and relationships I have gained in these positions make me an ideal candidate for City Council. I am current on the issues facing our City and ready to jump in and get to work.

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

I am a highly motivated and task driven person. I am also a self starter. If there is a job before me, I jump in and get to work.

As a small business owner, I understand the value of organization and hard work.

I am a trustworthy and honest person. I am willing to be straight forward even when I think not everyone will agree with my answer.

In this position, it is the responsibility of the Council Members to seek out the concerns of the citizens and bring them before city staff and the Council. This takes a motivated person as the answers are not always readily available. Persistence is required.

I feel I possess all the necessary characteristics to perform this job extremely well.

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.

The first accomplishment would be starting and operating a small business for the past 14 years. I have been able to build my business from ground up and maintain profits since we opened in 1996. Running a business takes a wide variety of skills and I feel that I have risen to that challenge.

With regards to my work with the City of Kent, I am most proud of the work the Land Use and Planning Board has done with regards to design review and construction standards. We recognized that we need more controls in place with regards to development and the characteristics of neighborhoods that were being built. We were able to work with the planning department and local builders to come up with options that were workable for all parties involved.

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.

My work in the community started as a volunteer in my son's schools. I have been a member of the PTA since 2001 and have chaired the reading committee at the elementary school and served as the parent liaison to the Safety Committee at the middle school. I have also volunteered in the classrooms of both of my sons.

As a member of Land Use and Planning Board for the past 6 years, I have learned about the processes of city government, developed relationships with both City staff and community members and become familiar with zoning and permit issues. I have also served on the Short Platt committee and worked with a variety of city departments including Public Works and Fire. I served as the Vice Chair of the Land Use and Planning Board for 3 years and am now serving as Chair.

I am in my second term as Chair of the Kent Arts Commission. I have been a member of the Arts Commission since 2005. In this role, I help evaluate programming and events sponsored by the City. We look at a variety of issues including budget or cost of the event, population served and need in the community. We also work with the school district to provide educational opportunities to students with various performers we have contracted with. I feel that public art is a vital part of any community and as a member of the Arts Commission I am continuously working to educate the public on the value of art in our community. This position has also provided me with invaluable contacts both within the city and the community at large.

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

The City Council develops policy with regard to the vision of the City of Kent. Council members serve on a variety of committees and work with all City departments. They also work with the Mayor's office to develop the budget and determine funding for various projects.

I see the main focus of the position as an advocate for the citizens of the City of Kent in the policy setting process.