

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
Christopher		Roberts

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

Shoreline City Council, Position 7

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

2 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

5 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends for Christopher Roberts
PO BOX 55621

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: Shoreline WA 98133

Campaign Phone: 206-708-1734

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: robertsforshoreline@gmail.com

Campaign Website: http://www.robertsforshoreline.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)
City of Shoreline Human Services Task Force	Appointive	2009	

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 am running for Shoreline City Council because Shoreline needs more citizen involvement in the decisions that we as a City faces. We need a Council that actively encourages and is attentive to the needs and concerns of the residents, workers, and business owners of the City.

In the next few years, the City of Shoreline will make several important decisions that will have a lasting affect the future direction of the City, and in each case the citizens of Shoreline should feel encouraged to participate in the decision-making process and their views should be respected. The most immediate decision that will affect the future growth and direction of the City is where a municipal jail will be sited. In the North-East cities, the site at the old Aldercrest School was placed in consideration for future study as Shoreline's entry. This site is in a residential neighborhood, and is unlike the other sites put up for consideration. The Council did not let the City know about the possibility of a jail located in Shoreline until the initial site selection was completed and during the 2008 holiday season.

Another issue that Shoreline will need to deal with in the next few years is what to do with the Point Wells property. While Point Wells is in unincorporated Snohomish County, the only current entry into the area is through Shoreline and is part of Shoreline's Urban Growth boundary. A final issue is planning for future growth within the City – and how that growth will affect the existing neighborhoods. In each of these cases, the residents of Shoreline have an important stake in these issues and the Council needs to encourage and respect citizen participation as an important part of the political process.

The second reason I am running is that the City needs to expand and diversify its revenue base. The City relies too much on development fees and property taxes. Shoreline needs to do a better job of promoting the existing businesses in Shoreline and to attract new businesses to locate in the City. The City zoning codes should be flexible to allow for small and home-based businesses to be successful. In taking these actions, the City will diversify its economy and be a leader at creating green, living-wage jobs in the region.

Finally, Shoreline should be a leader in green technology and green development. As a Council, we have a responsibility to the future of the City. Members of the Council must be

forward thinking and encourage the use of technology and innovation to make the City strong for years to come without changing the fundamental character of the City.

To do all of this, Shoreline needs more members of the Council who honor our past and plan for the future – continually listening to the needs of the residents of the City. I am running for the Council to build a stronger community – one that continues to pride itself on the fact that its greatest asset is its citizens.

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

Civic virtue and civic service is the foundation of our country, and if there is one wish that I could accomplish to make Shoreline a better place is if each person in the City joined one community organization – from starting a block watch with their neighbors to participating on a City advisory committee. I am an instructor at the University of Washington in the Department of Political Science. One of the lessons I try to teach my students is that one person can make a difference in the lives of others and their community.

For me, these values of giving back to my community were impressed upon me at a young age. My mother would walk down the street to the local elementary school and volunteer her time helping wherever she could – in the office, as a tutor, as an unpaid librarian. Today, even after a stroke, and after my brother and I have graduated from college, she still volunteers everyday – making her community a better place.

I have tried to live up to her example, donating my time and my money back to my community. I am an advisor and mentor at the University of Washington, I am a volunteer at the local food bank and with my local school. I serve as a member of Shoreline’s Human Services Task Force. I participate in my local neighborhood association and serve as an officer with my local Democratic Party organization.

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 am most proud when my students grasp a new concept – when their eyes sparkle with recognition of the new worlds and new ideas open to them. I believe my duty as an instructor is to teach critical thinking skills, and to assist students in analyzing new concepts and clearly articulating their ideas.

I was also excited by what we were able to accomplish in the 2008 campaign in the 32nd Legislative District. As the grassroots captain for Obama in the district, I was pleased that our candidates were able to win, but I was even more excited with the number of volunteers who became involved in their community for the first time, or for the first time in a while, during the election season. Each of these volunteers made a difference to their community, and it is my goal to keep these people engaged in the political process. Only together, I believe, will we strengthen our community.

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.

Intern, Legislative Assistant – Oregon State Representatives (1999, 2000-2001).

Advisor, Kappa Sigma Fraternity (Union College, 2001-2003; University of Washington 2004-present).

Intern, ACLU – Capitol Region (NY) Chapter (2005).

Intern, Department of Classification and Compensation, New York State Department of Civil Service (2006).

Membership Officer, 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization (2008)

Campaign Coordinator, 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization (2008-present)

Member, Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee (2009-present)

Secretary, Native American Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party (2009-present).

Member, City of Shoreline Human Services Task Force (2009-present)

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

The Shoreline City Council establishes City policies and laws, adopts an annual budget, approve appropriations, contracts for services, and grants franchises. In addition, the Council is required under the Growth Management Act to put together a Comprehensive Plan and has elected to create several Sub-Area plans to help plan for growth in the City.

However, the most important duty of a member of the Council is to listen to the City – to attend meetings of the local neighborhood associations, and to be a visible presence in the community. Too often, people think of their elected representatives as distant from the communities they represent, and it is important that members of the Council work to eliminate any perceived barriers to civic participation.