

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
Cindy		Ryu

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

Shoreline City Council Position #5

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

4 years previously, 11 years most recently = 15 years total in the City of Shoreline

5. How long have you resided in King County?

10 years previously; 11 years most recently = 21 years total

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends for Cindy Ryu
 Address: **15017 Aurora Ave N**
 City/State/Zip: **Shoreline, WA 98133-6134**
 Campaign Phone: **(206) 533-1251 Home (206) 605-1588 Cell**
 Campaign Fax: **(206) 363-7040 Attention Cindy Ryu**
 Campaign E-mail: friendsforcindyryu@yahoo.com; cindy4shoreline@yahoo.com
 Campaign Website: www.cindyryu.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	Elected among Councilmembers	2008-2009	Association of Washington Cities Board of Directors
Council Position #5	Elected by the people	2006-2009	enterpriseSeattle Board of Directors
Precinct Committee Officer	Appointed then Elected	2003-2006; 2009-2010	Legislative District Campaign Coordinator (2004); 32 nd LDDO State Committeewoman to Washington State Democratic Central Committee (2005-2010)

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Shoreline City Council Position #2	2003

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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 became involved in politics because of what was happening in front of my office, in the first mile of a 3-mile, \$120 Million Aurora Avenue road improvement project. The first mile was explained by the city leaders as being affordable because it was mostly “free money” with only 15% local money and 85% from county, state, and federal sources. I was alarmed that the Project as proposed reduced access to local, mostly family-owned businesses, and pushed many of left-turns and u-turns to busy intersections. Yet my and many others’ questions were not satisfactorily addressed either by the elected or staff leadership, so I started examining the City’s budget and many of the City’s capital projects. Beyond my observations regarding the Aurora project, my experiences on the Shoreline Bond Advisory Committee, attending many City Council meetings to listen in on Council deliberations on many other issues, and consulting with many Shoreline residents and business owners convinced me and my family of the need for change in the way the citizens’ business was being conducted in Shoreline.

Once elected to the City Council, I sought to improve the Aurora Avenue Project and help the local, family-owned businesses thrive. With neighbors, we saved South Woods from becoming development tracts. I led the fight with other members of the Council and community in developing Shoreline’s Economic Development Plan, Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Comprehensive Housing Strategy. Like many concerned citizens, making the Council’s work transparent and open to all of Shoreline’s residents has been a priority for me as a Councilmember and as the Mayor of Shoreline.

I am running for re-election this year to continue fighting on behalf of Shoreline’s neighborhoods. I voted to increase the public safety budget and put more police officers on the beat and in our schools. I am pledging to continue fighting to protect our neighborhoods, open spaces and parks – for our residents and our children. I am also advocating for a planned, common-sense development of Shoreline’s commercial land use areas. I will be a leader in keeping an open Council, where people of Shoreline will always have a seat at the table and a voice in determining our future.

I am very much looking forward to working with and continuing together on this journey of civic engagement with the citizens of Shoreline.

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

When I sign on, I am 100% committed to doing a good job. I have an excellent work ethic.

I am tenacious, have high expectations of myself and others, and will work diligently to deliver on my promises. I am also willing to admit to any problems or failures.

I believe in the goodness of people until they prove me wrong. When I turned 50 years old two years ago, I started appreciating every day as a “gift”. Life is short, so I want to get as much done as possible, and enjoy the journey in the process.

My husband and I have been blessed with three lovely children and financial success in our 26 year marriage. We are willing to make some personal sacrifices for the greater good. Being a City Councilmember is a labor of love and my family’s support has been invaluable.

Thanks to my scientific training through high school and college, I prefer to share information as widely as possible. I believe reasonable people can make the best possible decisions if adequate and appropriate information is available. This is especially true in financially challenging times to weather the storm and to prepare for economic recovery.

Serving on the Council, I truly appreciate policy setting at the local level, because the results are immediate, observable, and immensely satisfying. Because of our Council-Manager form of government, I am in the legislative branch while performing the duties of the Mayor and represent the citizens of Shoreline and the City Council.

It has been a privilege for me to serve and have Shoreline pull together in building up our community. I want to continue to serve, and I am seeking a second term on the Shoreline City Council.

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.

A. I am a poster child for achieving the American Dream. In spite of a difficult childhood, ongoing self-evaluation and identification of how I can improve, along with both formal & community-based education have added dimension and depth to my service in public office. While English is not my native language, I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree in Operations Management from the University of Washington. When I was younger, shyness limited my effectiveness, so I continue to challenge myself. I have a proven grassroots community service record with increasing responsibilities and successes. After the memorable February 2004 Presidential caucuses, I took on the challenge of organizing the 32nd Leg District Democrats as the first 32nd LDDO Legislative District Campaigns Coordinator. Even with the lack of contested races, we turned out the 3rd highest percentage of voters in the State for the Primary Election. I ran for and was elected the Vice-President of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. I stepped up to be the President of the Chamber ten months earlier than anticipated, while ramping up the 2005 campaign for City Council and holding a full time job.

B. After an initial attempt at public office in 2003, when I narrowly lost a run for City Council, I was first elected in 2005. On January 7, 2008, the Shoreline City Council elected me to a two-year term as Mayor of Shoreline and I became the first Korean-American Woman Mayor in the United States.

C. More recently, the City Council was struggling with new legislation for Master Development Planning on institutional campuses. My leadership resulted in passage of Ordinance No. 507 which established the designation of a new Campus Land Use and created a Campus zoning designation. We adopted a Master Development Permit process which balanced the needs of development while protecting the neighborhoods and being fair to 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 husband and I are parents of three wonderful children who attended Shoreline Public Schools and University of Washington. One daughter is a Teach For America, 6th grade math and special needs teacher in the L. A. Unified School District.

We owned and managed a North Seattle/Shoreline Allstate Insurance agency which my husband Cody started in 1983 in the Aurora Sears Store (1989-2006). We had the challenges of any entrepreneur, while working for a large corporation in a highly regulated industry.

I started working at age 12 in the blueberry fields in rural Thurston County. I volunteered at church and in nursing homes, working through school as a medical transcriptionist, nursing assistant, and typist.

Admissions Officer at Harborview Medical Center, a regional Level I Trauma Center (1980-1981)

University Hospital Financial Officer - Medicaid Applications Unit (1981-1982)

King County Medical Blue Shield Customer Service (1983-1984)

Seattle City Light Distributions Division (1984-1985)

City of Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use Management Systems Analyst (1985-1989) and Records/Microfilm Unit supervisor

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President (2005-2006) and executive board member (2005-2010)

Various PTA positions (1990-2004)

Richmond Beach Community Association Board Member (2004-2006)

Shoreline Bond Advisory Committee Member (2003-2005)

Precinct Committee Officer (2004-2006 and 2009-2010)

32nd Legislative District Democrats Campaigns Coordinator (2004)

32nd Legislative District Convention Logistics Coordinator (2004)

32nd Legislative District Democrats State Committeewoman (2005-2010)

United Presbyterian Church of Seattle: Teacher, Treasurer (1999-2004); Member 1983-Now

Association of Washington Cities Board member (2008-2009)

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

Elected in our Representative Democracy to Represent the people of Shoreline.

City's Policymaker: Establish City of Shoreline policies and laws.

Adopt an annual budget, seek and approve appropriations, contract for services and grant franchises.

Represent the City at public functions and meetings.

The most important duties in order of importance are:

- 1. Represent the people of Shoreline so that the people can go about their personal lives without worrying about good governance - people need to be able to trust "their government" and feel they're in "good hands."**
- 2. By listening to the people and by representing the people, establish policies and laws that reflect the priorities of the people and make Shoreline a safe and a good place to live, work, and play so that the government is a way and a resource to help make our city what the people desire.**
- 3. Show fiscal responsibility and accountability by thinking of the taxpayers when we're spending tax dollars. Maximize the impact of these tax dollars and the human resources available through our staff, citizen volunteers, and elected representatives through proven and innovative methods, including regular re-examination of all silos**

and inter-relating and connecting efforts for new ways of conducting business that will stretch limited public funds.