

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
Penny	C	Sweet

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

Kirkland City Council Position #3

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

25 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

61 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Penny Sweet

Address: 700 20th Ave W
Kirkland, WA 98033

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: 425-822-2907

Campaign Fax: none

Campaign E-mail: pennysweet@verizon.net

Campaign Website: www.sweetforkirkland.org

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)
Kirkland Downtown Action Team	Appointive	November 07 – May 09	
Kirkland Centennial Committee	Appointive	Jan 04-November 05	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Kirkland City Council Position #4	2007

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 believe living and working in a community implies a commitment to stewardship, something I take very seriously. I have been actively involved in issues, events, and projects that impact our businesses, neighborhoods and the whole community since my husband and I made the decision to live in Kirkland 25 years ago.

I have a deep and abiding commitment to our community. I am a passionate advocate for small, locally owned, family businesses in our neighborhood business districts where I have owned and operated my own business with my husband for 25 years.

As a small business owner, environmentalist, community organizer and volunteer I bring a perspective that fosters communication and builds the kind of partnerships that will help us maintain and grow the spirit of community that the City of Kirkland has worked so hard to achieve.

Since the 2007 election I've increased my service in Kirkland significantly. I was elected chair of my Neighborhood Association (about 850 households.) While I was active before, that experience has really excited me about the essence of neighborhoods and what they can be. Over the course of my leadership we have nearly tripled the involved membership of our association. We have put on and participated in multiple community events from picnics to gathering two tons of food for Hopelink during the Holiday snow storm. We founded a group called Friends of Kiwanis Park to sustain a precious neighborhood park. We are committed to forming a neighborhood connection via the internet that will continue to foster open communication, collaborative decision making and build a safety network for the whole neighborhood.

Right now, we are in times tougher than many of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Our city is struggling, our leadership is failing and it's time for a change. Our current council has not done what they should to foster economic growth during this recession and in fact I believe have made conditions worse by down zoning our central business district resulting in project cancellations meaning fewer jobs and less tax revenue to the city.

It is time someone served on the council with real world business experience, I bring that experience.

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

Integrity, honesty, passion, commitment, and real world experience running a business and managing a multi million dollar department at Group Health Cooperative.

I do what I say I will do.

I'm a good listener regardless of where I sit on issues, and I always try to listen carefully to the arguments people are making rather than get caught up in the rhetoric.

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.

Ten years ago, in an effort to build an event that would strengthen the bonds of community among our neighborhoods, our businesses, our city, our organizations, churches and schools, I founded *Celebrate Kirkland!*, the organization that puts on Kirkland's annual 4th of July Celebration. This event has become a part of the fabric of Kirkland and is the most anticipated celebration of the year.

In my role as president and chair I am the event organizer, fundraiser and city liaison.

I was a member of the 2005 inaugural graduating class of Leadership Eastside, a three year community leadership training program. I am especially proud of the fact that I have maintained relationships with my project team and we continue to serve our community in various capacities. I have acted as a team leader during the One Night Count of the homeless on the eastside conducted each January. My graduation challenge to myself in that program was to run for elected office which I did in 2007. In that contest I lost by a scant 104 votes (out of almost 10,000 cast) and door belled 9,111 households.

I spent 31 years at Group Health Cooperative managing up to 175 people, huge technical and clinical systems, and a multi million dollar department budget. During my tenure at GHC I worked in good times and bad times, I learned how organizations must be careful not to get complacent when times are good, but rather build reserves to help weather to the tough times sure to come. This is a lesson I intend to bring to Kirkland, something sorely missing right now.

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.

1995-1998 Chair. Relay for Cancer-Everett -Through Group Health – coordinated GHC’s involvement in the annual event and worked with the oversight team in logistics and planning

2004-2007 Group Health Cooperative Community Action Teams- Represented both the Seattle and Eastside teams in developing community relationships, determined funding and partnerships for outside organizations.

1987-1991 Served on Kirkland Arts Center Board of Directors – two terms as secretary – chaired two auctions.

1986-present – Chamber of Commerce member – 2006-present – Public Policy Committee

In October of 1999 founded Celebrate Kirkland, Inc., as a non profit organization to host, fund and operate the Kirkland 4th of July Celebration. Celebrate Kirkland puts on the annual parade, community picnic and fireworks display which has become signature to Kirkland.

1999-present – organizer and president of Celebrate Kirkland, Inc – planning, organizing, fundraising, grant writing for Kirkland’s annual 4th of July celebration

2004 and 2005 served as the events chair on the Kirkland Centennial Steering committee organizing three city wide celebrations during our Centennial year.

2005-2008 – Leadership Eastside Inaugural class – service project “Meeting the food needs of multiple cultures through our existing service agencies”

2006-present – Chair Kirkland Team – One Night count of the homeless.

2006-present -Kirkland Downtown Association -Board of Directors

2007 – present – Chair, Market Neighborhood Association.

2007 – present – member, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods.

2008 Founding member, Friends of Kiwanis Park.

2007- May, 2009 Member, City Council Appointed Downtown Action Team.

Present - Kirkland First! , a buy local program for the City of Kirkland. Advisory panel.

2008-present Board Member Friends if the Library of Kirkland (FOLK)

Lifetime member of the Kirkland Heritage Society

Member of The Audubon Society and The Sierra Club.

In 2000 was the recipient of the Anne G. Owen Award for Community Service presented by the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce. I have been recognized by the Kirkland Chamber as a “Friend of Kirkland” in 2000 and in 2005 received the President’s Award. Through our business, The Grape Choice, we were awarded the Chamber’s “Blooming Service” award in 2004 for businesses supporting community service.

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

The role of a council member for the City of Kirkland is to provide leadership and make policy decisions which give guidance to the city administration and staff. This should result in the appropriate allocation of city resources for programs, services and activities consistent with the best interests of the citizens of Kirkland.

The single most important role in this regard is the development and approval of the city budget. The budget is the ultimate statement of the council’s priorities and vision for the city.

In our form of city government the next critical role is the hiring of a City Manager who is the chief administrative officer of the city and is responsible for carrying out the policy directions provided by the council.

Other duties include representing the city locally and regionally on committees and work groups in order to assure Kirkland’s voice is heard on issues effecting the citizens of the city.

I also believe every council member owes the citizens of the city an open mind and careful listening when they bring up issues. And we should all be easily accessible.

Council members also have a responsibility to communicate concerns of individual citizens to city staff and work to resolve problems they are facing, otherwise known as casework.

SECTION III

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The following information is for League use only. It will not be published on the League’s website.