

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
Erica		Tiliacos

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

Sammamish City Council Pos. 1/dist. 5

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?

13 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Erica Tiliacos for City Council

Address: 3020 Issq. Pine Lk. Rd. #219

City/State/Zip: Sammamish WA 98075

Campaign Phone: 425-761-6523

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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)
Sammamish Planning Commission	Appointive	01-01-2006 to present	Planning Commission Vice Chair and Chair
CAO Citizen Committee	Appointive	Spring-summer of 2005	
Original Town Center Citizen Task Force	Appointive	Summer-fall of 2004	

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 have been interested from the outset in the direction our city embarked on 10 years ago when we incorporated. I attended early meetings as the city was developing its Comprehensive Plan, and have at various times given citizen input that I believe has helped inform decisions.

The city's location is unique in providing natural beauty, lakes and beautiful vistas and making it possible to enjoy these natural areas without causing their degradation presents some unique challenges. The quality of life that our young city offers, that of living in the country, while being so proximate to urban amenities, I believe is a key attraction for many citizens of Sammamish. While being required to grow and take growth allocations that are given out regionally, we need to balance those with the topographical limitations of a city atop a plateau. In other words we must fully consider the environment we are building in.

Bringing committed mass transit up to Sammamish will be key to developing a densely urbanized Town Center as envisioned by the current council. Protecting the waters of our lakes and streams and protecting property from storm water impacts will also be critical as the city continues to grow. I would like to be a part of expanding the recreational services/opportunities for the community in an inclusive, effective and efficient manner.

I think it is important to find more effective ways for the council to have broader citizen outreach, participation and communication. Overseeing the city's expenses and investments in capital projects will be important. It will become increasingly important for the council to focus its spending priorities such that it is meeting the top priorities for our community while ensuring that these investments do not put an undo burden on the citizens of Sammamish.

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

I have a good ability for study and research so as to fully understand an issue. I am conscientious and very organized, and am a good manager of my time. I like to listen to what others bring to the table in trying to understand an issue, and value the various ideas and how they can work to come up with interesting solutions. I believe in transparent government and feel the public should be as fully involved as they can or would like to be. However, I think citizens elect their officials so they can watch for their interests and expect them to do so. Balancing the myriad interests and concerns of the citizenry is a challenge, particularly when trying to bring disparate opinions together. However, they also bring varying ideas that help the process.

My involvement in the community has been from the grass roots level, and I have researched and spoken to many individuals to better understand the issues that led to our area being zoned urban and then what the zoning and development regulations that were put in place were meant to achieve. I bring institutional knowledge, leadership and experience.

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.

When I first came onto the Planning Commission, I was 1 of 2 new appointments. I had provided the Commission and the Council a lot of information regarding stormwater regulations that we had in place in Sammamish that had been put in place by King County to prevent catastrophic landslides and water degradation, and had researched the development of the ordinances and how they worked in tandem with zoning.

The assumption of the city staff and many of the commissioners was that I had an agenda, but as they got to hear my ideas and recommendations on other issues that didn't have to do with stormwater they began to see that I had a fair and reflective way of considering the information, asked good questions and brought something to the table. They realized that even though they had only known my ideas on one issue in the past, it didn't mean that I wasn't willing to move the city forward and plan for continued development. Even staff came to recognize that my concerns about changing some of the protective regulations had more to do with safety and protecting downstream property owners than trying to stop development. I had offered ideas on solutions that could be taken if they were considering changes. The Commission grew to work well together and it turned out to be collaborative and productive, so much so, they nominated me initially as vice chair and ultimately as chair of the Planning Commission.

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 professional work as a fashion and textile designer as well as a textile buyer gave me a broad range of work experience including financial. (23 years) As a fabric buyer I handled international letters of credit and customs brokers along with transportation and logistics. Working Internationally gave me experience in the diversity of methods and thinking that can accomplish similar goals, and the recognition that as people we all have similar desires for our family and communities. As a mother (15 years) I enjoyed being an art docent in elementary school (4 years) and I am keenly interested in leaving a world that can provide for our children as well as it provides for us now. As a property owner (13 years in Sammamish) I know that I have rights to develop, but responsibilities as well. As a citizen concerned about how my community is developing (10 years) I have learned that only by getting involved can we influence or make our voice heard. In getting involved I have also learned that others have their concerns and voices, and that it's important to listen to all before advancing. It's the study of the Sammamish Basin Plan and volunteering as a wetland monitor (3 years) that led me to learn of the importance of stormwater management. This involvement led to my appointment to the Planning Commission and to Chairing the commission for 1 of the 3 ½ years I have served on it. I am a member and past president of the Sammamish garden club (3 years) and have found others willing to embark in developing a native plant garden in our largest park to have it be a way of educating the public about the value of our native flora. Being a participant in the Kokanee Recovery Group (2 years) I can see the value in the education a demonstration garden can provide for advancing best practices to protect water in our lakes and streams and the importance of public outreach and community involvement.

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

The City of Sammamish has a Council-manager form of government, so the Council is responsible for hiring and evaluating the Manager. As a council member I would be involved, along with the other members, in establishing the bi-annual operating and capital budget that allocates funds to the city's 5 departments and its contract services for fire and police. I would participate in setting policy that guides the city's capital and operating programs as well as land use policies and programmatic decisions that guide the city manager and its departments. As a member of the Council I would also help guide the annual work program for each department and make sure the budget reflects work program priorities. Council members are designated to serve on regional committees, such as The Puget Sound Regional Council, Suburban Cities Association and several regional county committees, therefore, I would most likely serve on one or more. All of the duties are important, because they all influence the direction of the city, the services it is providing and the financial ability for the city to accomplish its goals.