

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
George F.	"Rusty"	Williams

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

Seattle City Council Position #8

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

58 Years (all my life)

5. How long have you resided in King County?

58 Years (all my life)

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Rusty Williams Campaign

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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)
Citizens Sand Point Liaison Committee	Appointive	Current	Chair
Rainier Valley Rotary Club	Elective	Current	Secretary

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

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 passionately in love with this city. I have lived here all my life. Nature has created a unique and glorious environment for us to live in. This environment requires stewardship. This includes protecting and preserving what makes Seattle unique and beautiful while creating a safe, clean and livable habitat for my fellow Seattle-lovers. I would add that it should include being a steward of the local culture that has evolved over time. Not only the arts and music that reflect our culture but the identity of the various neighborhoods that make up this city.

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to be the steward of our environment, our citizens and our culture. I have a breadth of experience from my various occupations ranging from laborer to business executive. I am both creative (a lifelong musician) as well as technical (an IT major and career technology evangelist). I am an accurate judge of character and place character as the single most important trait that an individual can have. And it is character that I bring to this job.

Character will guide me as the steward of the city I love. Character will provide me the proper guiding principals to make wise decisions. Character breeds leadership. And leadership is desperately needed at Seattle City Hall. And this is why I am running for City Council. To provide the leadership that is missing.

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

Above I mentioned character as one's most important trait. Character is multi-faceted. A large part of it is integrity. This is probably my strongest trait. It has already been tested in this brief campaign and I have held true.

Next I would say that experience is an important quality I possess. At 58, I am the oldest candidate in my race. This provides me with the breadth and depth of knowledge and wisdom that is required of a job like City Councilperson. One must make decisions on everything from potholes to deep bore tunnels.

This leads to another important quality I have – curiosity. One must be a constant student to make the important decisions of a Councilmember. The best leaders are always curious.

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 extremely proud of my college education. After a 15 year career as a professional musician, I went back to college to become a computer professional. To fund my education I bought a taxicab, rented it during the school week and drove it on the weekends. I also worked in the computer lab at the UW Business school as a consultant to students and faculty. And I continued to play music for extra money. I worked at these three jobs while taking a full class schedule and graduated in 4 years.

I am also proud of the work I do with the Rainier Valley Rotary Club. I am leading a drive to provide books for the children in Rainier Valley. We have already delivered 365 dictionaries to third graders. And our book drive through Page Ahead will provide thousands of more dollars to provide more books. Third grade reading level is the single most important criterion in determining the outcome of a person's life.

I am also very proud of the work I do as the community liaison for Magnuson Park. Our group works diligently to see that the Park sees its highest and best use.

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.

Much of what I have already said applies to this question. What I haven't mentioned is my business career. I have been a small businessman in Seattle for 40 years. Running a small business teaches valuable lessons. One of these lessons is fiscal responsibility. This is the mantra of a businessperson. It is also the most important duty of a councilmember. The council is responsible for approving the budget. And it also makes decisions on taxation. These revenues and expenditures are crucial to the future of Seattle and it's citizens. I see several unsound decisions in this area. The lessons of business can be directly applied to the business of running the City. My knowledge and experience in business will be a great benefit to our local government.

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

As I have stated, budgetary decisions are at the top of the list of duties for a City Councilperson. Tax policy is also extremely important. Tax policy can have a profound impact on the local economy. During this time of economic distress, it is crucial that businesses are not overtaxed. This will slow down job growth and the recovery process.

Land use and zoning are also top end issues. Seattle is looking at incredible growth in the near future. How we design and develop our neighborhoods today will have an impact for decades. As a commercial real estate agent, I have an intimacy with the zoning codes that provide me with a tremendous advantage in looking at land use. I have already spent a tremendous amount of time considering this topic.