

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
Rich		Zwicker

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

Renton City Council Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

44 Years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

44 Years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Rich on Council

Address: PO Box 576

City/State/Zip: Renton WA 98057

Campaign Phone: 206-579-8804

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: Rich@Richzwicker.com

Campaign Website: www.RichZwicker.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)
Renton City Councilmember	Appointed to fill vacancy in elected position	2/1/1008 to current	Chair, Utilities Committee; Vice Chair Planning and Development, Vice Chair Transportation,
Trustee, Renton Technical College	Appointed	10/2005 to current	Board Chair 2007-2008

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Renton City Council	2003
State legislature	2000

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.)
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When I applied for the position on council, I said I would seek to retain this seat in the 2009 election if the following three conditions were met:

1. I enjoyed serving as a councilmember;
2. I was an effective councilmember; and
3. A majority of the council was happy with their decision to appoint me and endorse me in my bid to retain my seat.

Reflecting upon my time on council, I believe all three conditions have been met. I truly love the opportunity to serve my community as a councilmember and find it very rewarding. Also, I believe I have been an effective councilmember and I have brought my experience and ability to work with others to the council and in turn have made the City of Renton a better place. And finally, I am thrilled to announce I have received the endorsement of all six sitting councilmembers: Don Persson, King Parker, Terri Briere, Marcie Palmer, Randy Corman, and Greg Taylor, along with former councilmember Toni Nelson, our Mayor, Denis Law, State Attorney General, Rob McKenna, 41st District Senator Fred Jarrett, 41st District Representatives Judy Clibborn and Marcie Maxwell and King County Councilmembers Reagan Dunn and Julia Patterson among many others.

As an elected official my focus will continue to consist of:

Neighborhoods. I believe that Renton's strength comes from its neighborhoods. A strong advocate and participant in the City's Neighborhood Program, I served four years as the President of the North Renton Neighborhood Association and continues service as a member of the board of directors. A fixture at neighborhood picnics, I have also served as a panelist at the City's annual Neighbor to Neighbor program and has facilitated a training session on the creation of bylaws for other recognized neighborhoods.

Efficient Government. My many years of government service allow me to study governmental operations with an eye for efficiencies. Since joining the City Council, I have assisted City staff in streamlining internal processes for more efficient handling of committee meetings and reports. I was recognized by Governor Locke for efficiencies he championed in providing customer service to the Department of Revenue, received an outstanding team award from Attorney General Rob McKenna, and received multiple Commendations from then Attorney General Christine Gregoire.

Public Participation. I believe strongly in public participation in the process of government. I worked closely with the administration for increased public comment opportunities during the recent negotiation for a new waste management contract. I continue to advocate for televised committee meetings and will continue to encourage the City's adoption of occasional "town hall" meetings throughout the community.

Economic Development and Responsible Growth. Currently, the economy has stalled the unprecedented growth the City underwent in the early 2000's. However, when the economy strengthens and growth begins again, I will advocate for responsible development and a balance between industry, business and obtainable housing. I will continue the City's tradition of encouraging living-wage jobs, along with business growth that will continue to allow the City the financial ability to provide the basic services for our citizens.

Environmental Concerns. I understand Renton's unique environmental position and the impacts created by growth and development. I serve as a member of the Cedar River Council and King County's Regional Water Quality Committee. I will continue to make decisions about Renton's future understanding the environmental needs of Renton.

Equal Rights. I am strongly in favor of equal rights under the law. Renton's diversity requires its government to be cognizant and supportive of the differences that make a strong community. My service on the council, outreach in the community and activism on the Renton Technical College Board of Trustees shows my commitment to those of all walks of life.

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

I live with my wife, Martha, in North Renton. I am active in my neighborhood and I bring my commitment to Renton to my seat on the council. I enjoy being involved and being a part of the community.

I am a paralegal with the state Attorney General's Office, and also serve as a Trustee for the Renton Technical College and as a member of the Renton Technical College Foundation and Alumni Association. As a Trustee, I have served a term as Board Chair for the RTC Board of Trustees and served the Washington State Trustees' Association of Community and Technical Colleges as the Chair of the Legislative Steering Committee and a member of its Awards Committee, Education Committee and Bylaws Committee. In 1999, I was acknowledged by Governor Locke in the Governing for Results Program, and in 2008 I received an Outstanding Team Award from Attorney General Rob McKenna for my efforts in the Bankruptcy & Collections Unit.

I am a current board member and Past-President of the North Renton Neighborhood Association and I have served as a member of Piazza Renton and the Renton Airport Advisory Committee.

I am the 2008 and 2009 Chair of the City Council Utilities Committee and I continue my service on the City Council's Planning and Development Committee and the Transportation (Aviation) Committee.

It is my priority to make sure that Renton continues to be regional leader as well as a great place to live, learn, work and play.

I will work to maintain a sense of community with the Mayor's office, my fellow councilmembers and our neighborhoods.

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.

For many years I have been a leader as a paralegal with the State Attorney General's Office, as a Trustee of the Renton Technical College and now as a councilmember with the City of Renton. I have had many accomplishments in government, but none that mean as much as my time served on the Renton Technical College Foundation. Raising funds to assist needy students has allowed me to see firsthand what a difference a caring community can make in the life of a student. And attending the Renton Technical College Graduations are pretty darn rewarding, too!

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.

Trustee, Renton Technical College Board of Trustees, 2005 to present;
Chair, Renton Technical College Board of Trustees, 2006-2007;
Member, Renton Technical College Foundation, 2007 to present;
Founder and Member, Renton Technical College Alumni Association, 2006 to present;
Member, Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges (TACTC), 2005 to present;
Chair, TACTC Legislative Steering Committee, 2007-2008;
Member, TACTC Bylaws Committee, 2008;
Member, TACTC Awards Committee, 2007;
Member, TACTC Education Committee, 2007;
Chair, City of Renton Utilities Committee, 2008 to present;
Vice-Chair, City of Renton Transportation Committee, 2009 to present;
Member and past Vice-Chair, City of Renton Planning and Development Committee, 2008 to present;
Member, Suburban Cities Association (SCA), 2009 to present;
Member, King County Regional Water Quality Committee (SCA Representative) 2009 to present;
Member, Cedar River Council, 2008 to present;
Member, WRIA 8 Salmon Council, 2008 through present;
Past-President, North Renton Neighborhood Association (a City of Renton recognized neighborhood);
Board Member, North Renton Neighborhood Association; 2003 to present;
Acknowledged by Governor Locke for Governing for Results Program, 1999;
Received Outstanding Team Award by Rob McKenna, 2008;
Member, Piazza Renton, 2007; and
Member, Renton Airport Advisory Committee, 2007.

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

The seven-member City Council is the legislative forum for the City of Renton. The Council may adopt and enforce ordinances of all kinds relating to local or municipal affairs and appropriate to the good government of the City of Renton.

Elected by the citizens of Renton, members of the Council are dedicated to protecting the interests of their constituents.

In addition, the Renton City Council has all other powers allowed to cities under the constitution, including those related to the acquisition, sale, ownership, improvement, maintenance, protection, restoration, regulation, use, leasing, disposition, vacation, abandonment or beautification of public ways, real property of all kinds, waterways, structures, or any other improvement or use of real or personal property, and in the rendering of local social, cultural, recreational, educational, governmental, or corporate services, including operating and supplying of utilities and municipal services. The Council also has authority over the city's powers of taxation. I believe the most important duties are representing my constituents. And my constituents include the Citizens of Renton, along with the employees of the City, and those that conduct business with and in the City of Renton. My top priorities are to ensure that the basic services, such as fire, police and utilities are maintained at a high level, both now and in the future.