

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
Lloyd	F	Hara

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

King County Assessor

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

Born in Seattle. I graduated from Roosevelt High School and spent most of my adult life in Seattle.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

52 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Hara

Address: 466 Smith St

City/State/Zip: Seattle WA 98109

Campaign Phone: 206-726-8053

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Campaign E-mail: citizensforhara@comcast.net

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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)
Commission Member, Port of Seattle	Elective	2006 to present	One of 5 elected Commissioners (served as Vice President and Secretary)
Director, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Region 10	Appointive	1994	One of 10 regional directors: presidential appointment
Treasurer, City of Seattle	Elective	1980 - 1992	Chief Executive Officer
Auditor, King County	Appointed to Vacancy in Elective Office	1969 - 1978	Chief Executive Officer

Budget Analyst IV, Central Budget Agency, Governor's Office: Olympia	Appointed to	1967-69	Division Head of New Budget Design Team
Fiscal Analyst, WA State Legislature, House Ways and Means Committee, Olympia	Appointed to	1967	Key staffer to Chairman
Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, METRO of Seattle, Seattle	Appointed	1963-65	Key personal staffer to the Ex. Director

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Treasurer, State of Washington (lost to Dan Grimm in Democratic Primary)	1988

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.)

Now and for years to come, the Department of Assessment will struggle under unprecedented market conditions.

Assessor Scott Noble's sudden departure creates a critical vacancy at a critical time. After 17 years under one management team, the Department has grown satisfied with its own performance, and in the past year the number of property assessment appeals has skyrocketed over 400%.

While some of my opponents can claim experience as appraisers, none can claim a background in running a public office. Above all, this is what is needed for this job, as it is a leader/management position—in fact, for at least the last four decades, not one King County Assessor has been a former appraiser. I am the only candidate who has managed significant number of public employees, serving as King County Auditor and Seattle City Treasurer. I know and understand public finance, and taught university courses and ran several Institutes for Municipal Treasurers and Municipal Clerks. No one else in this race can claim this experience. I am ready to lead the Department from Day One.

As an independent-minded public servant who has studied, taught and practiced public finance at an expert level, I am prepared to renew and reform the Department. I have a solid reputation for transforming public organizations into models for the nation, as I did at the Treasurer's Office. Additionally, I will bring more straight talk to the office, and am equipped to represent the department to a deeply distressed taxpaying public, many of whom have seen their income, home equity and life savings evaporate in the current financial calamity.

Taxpayers count on the Assessor to treat them fairly and honestly. I will open the office up to the public, make it more accountable and transparent, so citizens can be fully cognizant of how the business of the Assessor's office is done. I will improve the office's practices, so as to make the office's data collection process, and the property values that result from it, far more accurate and reflective of true market conditions.

As County Auditor, then as City Treasurer, and now as Port Commissioner, I put the taxpayer first. I will continue to do so, should you see fit to elect me as your next Assessor.

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

There are a few personal characteristics that I believe would make me the right person for King County Assessor.

-I'm an effective leader/manager: As mentioned previously, I am an experienced leader/manager of public institutions, particularly those dealing in financial matters. I have the capacity to make the tough and difficult decisions, and to then see that the decisions are implemented. I will support and assist staff to allow them to personally grow and get the job done. Staff will see that I am a good listener and someone to whom they can speak frankly. Because of this openness, I can get valuable input on how things can be better run. Furthermore, the Assessor must possess strong political skills in order to be effective. Aside from leading a multidisciplinary staff, an Assessor has to negotiate the annual budget with the County Executive and the County Council in order to adequately fund the Department.

-I'm a numbers guy. I take great pride in my ability to dive into data, understand what is working and not, and to make the corrections as needed. A modern mass appraisal system combines computerized systems, and the timely collection and input of quality data by appraisers and staff. I will work with the department to update both this data-collection system and the computer systems used, and will do so with a head for numbers and data, as well as an understanding of how I can push politically for the necessary funds to run the department properly.

-I'm passionate about improving my community, and being in touch with it: This is said so often by candidates that it has almost lost meaning, but I honestly have a passion for public service. When Kennedy instructed the young people of America to "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for our country", it affected me deeply, and provided me with a sense of purpose. I enjoy going out and speaking with people, and keep an open-door policy. I will not be the kind of assessor who hides in the office and does not want to interact with the community, preferring to make decisions from on-high. I will be out in the thick of it, which is what is needed in a time when so many people clearly have questions for the department. I have received an award from the King County Democrats honoring me as "the politician who keeps his campaign promises and delivers."

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.

As Commissioner, I brought accountability, openness and transparency to the Port of Seattle. Similar to the assessor's office, before I got to the port they had spent nearly two decades under one management team, and the staff had grown to accept questionable practices, resenting and resisting routine oversight – even from the legally responsible elected Commission.

Under my leadership, an Audit Committee was created, which adopted conventional audit procedures. I promoted performance audits that exposed legal compliance problems as well as performance issues. I lead a review to write a new codes of ethics, reformed the over-use of executive sessions, and established contribution limits for Port campaigns. I pushed to make Commission proceedings more accessible on the internet, on cable television, and in person by adjusting hours and meeting locations. I set a new standard for personal accessibility to reporters and interested parties, and regularly spoke to the general public.

In addition, I reformed practices to allow small business to have greater contract bid opportunities.

As Seattle City Treasurer, I was proud that City and State Magazine named me the Nation's Best Treasurer for my innovations in treasury and cash management. Under my leadership, Seattle's Treasury Department became a national model. Finance officers from around the county traveled to the area to study our practices and techniques. I won numerous other national awards, lectured widely, and was published in a number of professional journals.

I modernized the office, making the transition from paper records to electronic media, establishing a cutting edge investment program, and implementing a novel cash management system. Review of a 100-year-old banking relationship saved the taxpayers a million dollars! I made cash management a major income producer for the city. The Local Improvement Districts' administrative practices were totally renewed and placed on computers that made records more accessible for the public and saved taxpayers money. A modernized recording system for utility bills was instituted that improved cash receipting, earning millions more in investment income.

Furthermore, as Treasurer I transferred acres of Treasurer owned lands into Seattle's Open Space preservation program instead of selling off the property to private developers. This has most assuredly increased the quality of living in the area.

As King County Auditor, I was very proud to be honored with a national award for my pioneering work in "performance audits". My work initiated performance measures of program effectiveness, measuring government activities against quantifiable standards. This made managers more accountable for expenditures versus accomplished goals. The principles and guidelines I established were incorporated into the GAO "Yellow Book", which are used even today at all levels of government as the governmental auditing standards. I served on a number of key national advisory boards and commissions regarding professional practices.

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.

I have played a founding role in a number of community and civic organizations.

Women today participate routinely in Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Elks and other service organizations all over the world, but this was not always the case. In 1984 I founded and gathered friends to form the International District Rotary Club of Seattle - as ethnically and culturally diverse as any Club in the world. In a five-year campaign of pressure, persuasion, and procedural maneuvering against institutional resistance, this became the first Club to successfully break the gender line in Rotary International's bylaws and successfully admit women. The Club was a party to the US Supreme Court lawsuit that permitted women to join previously male-only civic organizations.

I also built organizations to meet the needs of the Asian American community for job placement, health, and social service centers that provided bilingual services. These organizations – which include the Employment Opportunities Center and the Asian and Pacific American Municipal Officials – not only brought relief to an underserved community, they provided leadership experience, expanding the corps of qualified Asian American executives and Board members. This primed the community to fund meaningful programs, take part in the political process and rely less upon other sectors of business and government. Today we see much stronger Asian American participation in business, government and non-profits throughout the region.

Another organization I founded was the Columbia Club of Seattle, a program for senior citizens to meet nutritional and social needs. The Columbia Club currently serves over 750 people daily.

These accomplishments suggest that I am someone who can recognize problems with the status quo, visualize opportunities for positive change, and bring solutions into reality. I stay involved with all sorts of different organizations and groups of people throughout the area. No group in the County is surprised to see Lloyd Hara show up at their meetings and other events – in or out of campaign season.

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

The Assessor is an independently elected public official, responsible to the voters of King County, and someone who communicates to them the policies and actions of the office.

The Assessor is a generalist who oversees the work of a diverse team of specialists – in a field which combines theory and practice, science and judgment. The Assessor's office records and maintains information on over 660,000 land parcels in King County, which are important public information for many organizations aside from setting the property tax assessments.

The Assessor is the chief executive officer, who directs a department of nearly 225 public employees, and is a leader in tax policy, public finance, and taxing district information.