

## 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Mike	Y	Park

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

**Mayor, City of Federal Way**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**33 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**34 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Friends of Mike Park

Address:      P.O. Box 3923

City/State/Zip:      Federal Way, WA 98063

Campaign Phone:      206-880-9163

Campaign Fax:      N/A

Campaign E-mail:      votepark@gmail.com

Campaign Website:      www.votepark.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)
City Council, City of Federal Way	Elective	Since 1995	
Deputy Mayor	Elective (by Council)	1998-99	
Mayor	Elective (by Council)	2000-01, 2006-07	

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.)

This is the first time the citizens of Federal Way are able to elect their Mayor. Due to this exciting, transitional period, I believe my experience is essential in leading Federal Way adapt to this transition. I served the City as a Council Member since 1995 and served as a Mayor in 2000 and 2006. Due to my long term experience and continued service to the citizens of Federal Way, I know what the City needs to enhance small business development, which is vital in job creation during these tough economic times.

As a parent of two daughters who attended the Federal Way Public School system, I know from experience as a former PTA member, the challenges the school system faces. I understand teachers work very hard and advocate their need for more support. Although, the education system depends upon tax revenue and levies, I believe there are alternative ways to assist teachers and families improve the education their children are receiving by encouraging family involvement. As an immigrant from South Korea, I know education is the great equalizer in opening doors to anyone who wants to work hard. I arrived to this great nation with limited English, but took advantage of ESL classes while delivering flowers for minimum wage during the day. These experiences helped me understand and appreciate Federal Way's diversity. Even though my English was not perfect at the time, I talked to as many people as I could to assimilate and become an American. This allowed me to open a small business which is successful to this day and advocate on behalf of small business owners in Federal Way.

As the longest serving Council Member, I have heard many issues from the local chamber of commerce and know what it takes to lead the City's small business owners so they can survive through these tough economic times and have the ability to attract new businesses to Federal Way, including the emerging Green Economy. Federal Way citizen deserve to live in a safe city and my record clearly demonstrates my commitment to public safety. During one of my 2 term service, the Federal Way Police Department became nationally accredited and I actively encourage the Police Department to represent all citizens of Federal Way. I witnessed and participated in the Police Department's formation and growth, as the longest serving council member and this is also a reason why I am running for Mayor of Federal Way.

Furthermore, as a proud immigrant from South Korea in 1976, I have received so much from America and Federal Way's diverse culture; I would like to give back to the City and this country the opportunities I have received. I am the living example of the American dream come true. That anyone who is willing to study, work-hard and be engaged in their community can become a City Council Member, and hopefully three-time Mayor.

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

One of the first things, I learned immigrating to America is the ability to quickly learn and adapt to new situations. I worked extremely hard to learn English and American culture by talking to as many people as I could from many cultures in order to understand many perspectives and opinions. Coming from a homogenous country, I realized how blessed I was to receive such a gift. While learning English, I observed and listened to people's gestures and customs, which helped me become patient and increase critical thinking skills. This allowed me to be objective, not jump to conclusions, and make sound decisions based on fairness and facts.

My colleagues consider me as a consensus builder and one who can reduce conflict, encourage compromises improving efficiency to move forward on behalf of the city, and ultimately in the best interest for the citizens the council represents.

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 have encountered many hardships and proud moments in my life. Immigrating to the US and starting new from the ground up is one thing I am very proud of. I am a quick-learner. I delivered flowers for minimum wage and school at night to improve my English skills so I could grasp the opportunities this wonderful country had to offer. I learned education opens doors in America. This was how I was able to go from delivering flowers to running a small business and then to the City Council.

I was the first Council Member ever to become a two term Mayor. I believe this was possible because my colleagues saw my hard work to the City and respected me as a leader. Many Council Members have passed through the Council the past 15 years and I have worked very well as a team player with them all. I believe because my colleagues respected me as a consensus builder and team leader, they elected me to represent Federal Way as Mayor twice.

Assisting the establishment of the Federal Way Police Department is another accomplishment I am extremely proud of. Public safety was one of the turning points for me getting involved in the City. I was one of the first citizens to participate in the Safety Task Force, and later became a Council Member. I experienced firsthand the impact of the voices of citizens. We wanted to keep our community safe and prevent crime so we pushed for our own police department. As a citizen I worked with other citizens and then later as a Council Member worked hard to keep a strong and well trained police force that reflects the diversity of Federal Way. I am also proud the Police Department was nationally accredited while I was Mayor. Federal Way continues to be one of the safest cities in King County.

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.

1978 – Present

1988-2000: Parent Teacher Association

1992-1995: Federal Way Public Schools – Diversity Committee and Superintendent's Advisory Committee.

1992-1994: Federal Way Safety Task Force

1995-Present: Finance, Economic Development, and Regional Affairs Committee

1995-Present: City Council Member – Deputy Mayor and twice Mayor

1996: Jail Advisory Committee

1998: Private Industry Council – Executive Board Member

2000-02: National League of Cities: Economic Development Steering Committee

2000-Present: Asian Pacific American Municipal Official Board Member

2000-02: Seattle-King County Economic Development Committee Board Member

2000-01/2006-07: Association of Washington Cities – Large City Mayors Committee

2000-01/2006-07: Valley Communication Center – Administration Board Member

2000-05: Federal Way Public Schools/ City Liaison Committee

2000-05: Lakehaven Utility District/ City Liaison Committee  
2000-Present: City/ Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee  
2001-Present: Selective Service System – Local Board Member  
2002-03: Land Use and Transportation Committee  
2006-07: Lodging Tax Advisory Committee - Chair  
2007-Present: King County Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee  
2007-Present: King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee

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

The role of the Mayor of the City of Federal Way is to represent the City regionally – be the voice of the City at a regional level. Furthermore, duties include preside over the City Council and only voting when there is a tie. The day to day management of the City is a vital responsibility of the Mayor as well; the Mayor also presents the budget to the council and implements the approved budget.

All duties of the Mayor important to the efficient and smoothly run City, but one of the most important duties is the presiding of the City Council and day to day management of the City. Presiding over the City Council entails to be a team player and to be able to be a consensus builder on behalf of the City at times when opinions are at opposing ends. The Mayor must be ready to work a Council that has diverse opinions and backgrounds. The Mayor must work to being a diverse Council together for the City and the citizens.

Day to day management and working the City Staff is just as important. The Council may be the biggest stakeholders in decision making, but the workers behind the scenes- the City Staff is just as important. They are the true team players that keep the City working towards the City's vision and implementing the decisions from the Council. Team work and building consensus among the staff is just as important.

The role of the Mayor is multi-fold, at times a leader, presenter, facilitator, and encourager.