

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Jack Block Jr.
Position sought	Burien City Council, Position 7
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	34 th LD, 8 th County Council District, 8 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes; I have served as a 34 th District PCO
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Elect Jack Block Jr.
Web page	www.jackblockjr.com
Campaign Email address	jackblockjr@zipcon.com
Manager	Cindi Laws
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 393 Seahurst, WA 98062
Campaign phone number	206-246-7708
Campaign FAX	n/a

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Describe your qualifications, education, employment, community and civic activity, Union affiliation and other relevant experience.

I am a lifelong area resident, founding member and past chair of the Burien Parks Board, past Vice-President of the Friends of Burien Park committee. I was named an honorary lifetime member of the Burien Library Guild for my work in 2004 in passing the King County Library bond. I have also served as a youth basketball coach for the Boys and Girls club and have volunteered at the Highline Senior Center and Catholic Seaman's club. I served on the Burien City Council from 2003 through 2007.

I am a graduate of Mt. Rainier High School and have attended Highline Community College and Seattle University.

I have been employed, full and part time, as a Longshoreman by the Pacific Maritime Association since 1978, where I am a heavy equipment and container gantry crane operator. I was

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

employed as a Warehouseman-Driver for Consolidated Freightways from 1986 through 1995 while awaiting a full time waterfront position.

I am a member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 where I have served as Public Relations chair and as a member of the Executive Board.

Prior to that I was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 741 where I served as a Shop Steward and Election Committee Member.

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	Endorsement process underway
Union Endorsement	International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19, other Union endorsements underway
Municipal League	Rating system underway
SEAMEC	Rating system underway
Other Endorsements	Jack Block Sr.,

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

All of them

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	x		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	x		
3	Do you support affirmative action?	x		
4	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	x		
5	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	x		
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		x	
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?	x		
8	Do you support equal rights for women?	x		
9	Do you support major changes in the way we live to help stop global warming?	x		
10	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	x		

Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		x
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	x	
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		x

* If you answered "Yes" or "Qualified" please explain your answer.

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

I was fined \$100 for a reporting error during my 2003 council campaign.

Are you a member of another political party? If so, which ones? Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, whom?

No

Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

Yes, yes, yes, 34th District

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

I have unfinished business in Burien. Burien is in dire danger of becoming a community of "haves" and "have nots". During my successful previous term I was a voice for the unheard, and hope to build on the success of my previous term and address the needs of our citizens.

My campaign is run by a professional and deeply experienced campaign manager, with guidance from an exemplary steering committee. Our budget and fundraising strategies will be aggressive and meet the needs for a comprehensive mail program that will supplement community connections.

What are the single most pressing issues facing your jurisdiction? What actions would you take if elected?

Burien needs a Community Service Center to support our non-profit organizations. As a community of modest means, Burien needs to find innovative ways to help its citizens. For example, the Highline food bank is currently housed in a location that does not have transit access. A new accessible CSC would address this shortcoming, but also allow the city to grow and support private organizations that provide much needed assistance.

I will advocate for creating such a facility.

If you are a candidate in a contested primary race, what record of performance, ability, experience, personal qualities, and positions on issues distinguish you from your opponent(s)? If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.

N/A

Do you believe the current structure of taxes and/or fees that generate funds in your area are fair? If not,

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

how would you change it?

Washington's regressive tax system was conceived and implemented in the 1930s based on an industrial economy model. Having a sales tax that does not include a levy on services fails to recognize our modern service based economy, shortchanges local government of much needed revenue, lets the wealthy avoid paying their fair share of taxes, and is punitive on the poorest among us. The Business and Occupation tax, collected on the basis of gross revenue rather than income, punishes small business people and is a disincentive towards job creation.

Many of our state's most prominent and vocal billionaires have cried out for major reform that would tax their income and wealth. Washington's tax system is essentially "Boom or Bust", the vagaries of our present tax code put our state on a perpetual revenue roller coaster. To maintain programs to sustain our citizens, government needs a diverse and fair source of revenue so that when one part of the economy falters, income will still be generated for government services. An income tax would equitably assure that essential programs would be maintained during economic downturns.

King County has a ten year plan to end homelessness. What ideas do you have to increase low income and affordable housing/?

We need to get our societal priorities straight. Instead of using tax dollars to build sports stadiums we need use these funds to start building workforce and low income housing. When the current sales tax surcharge that was used to build the Mariner and Seahawk sports stadiums expires, it should be renewed and refocused towards building affordable workforce housing.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

In the short term, bulk purchase of prescription drugs, while we work towards a federal long-term, comprehensive health care program like the rest of the industrialized world.

What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

During my previous term, I sponsored and ushered through Burien's landmark anti-discrimination ordinance, passed a year before and more comprehensive than the State's. Government has no place in the private lives of citizens, it is time to recognize that a loving and caring relationship takes many forms. I support equal rights and benefits for all people.

What creative solutions can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged?

John Kennedy said a rising tide lifts all boats. Passage of the Employee Free Choice act to ensure a strong and vibrant middle class income for more Americans, expansion of programs such as Burien's

King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

apprenticeship set aside requirements that increase training opportunities for Family Wage Jobs, and an equitable and understandable Federal and State tax system.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Jack S. Block, Jr.	Date
Signature	Jack S. Block, Jr. electronic	5/11/2009