

# King County Democrats 2009 General Candidate Questionnaire

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| Candidate Name   | John Creighton   |
| Position sought  | Port of Seattle Commission, Position #1  |
| Residence Legislative,<br>County Council and<br>Congressional district | 7 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District<br>36 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District<br>County Council District 4                         |
| <b>Are you a Democrat?<br/>Are you known as a<br/>Democrat?</b>        | I hold a nonpartisan office, but believe that my values and governing record as a port commissioner align with the Democratic Party. |
| <b>Campaign Information</b>  |  |
| Campaign Name  | John Creighton for Port Commissioner   |
| Web page   | <a href="http://www.johncreighton.org">www.johncreighton.org</a>   |
| Campaign Email<br>address  | <a href="mailto:john@johncreighton.org">john@johncreighton.org</a>   |
| Manager  | Kenyon Foxworthy   |
| Campaign mailing<br>address  | P.O. Box 9362, Seattle, WA 98109   |
| Campaign phone<br>number   | 206-320-1238   |
| Campaign FAX   | 206-260-0759   |

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| 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 grew up in Bellevue and graduated from Interlake High School in 1983. I am a business lawyer by training, and practiced on the east coast and overseas before returning to Seattle in 2000. I have a BA and MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University and a JD from Columbia University. Listed below are the boards and commissions I am/have been a member of:

- Seattle Biomedical Research Institute (Trustee 2003-2008)
- World Trade Club (Board Member, Co-Vice President and Co-President at various times)
- Member of advisory board of Pathways, the Urban League initiative to foster the success of local disadvantaged business enterprises (2008-present).
- Chief Seattle Council, Boy Scouts of America (Executive Committee 2001-present)

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- Commission President for two consecutive years in my first term of office, 2007–2008 (although the chairmanship typically rotates every year, my fellow commissioners valued the stability of my leadership amidst all the transition at the Port during the last few years).
- Appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (2 terms; 2006–present).
- Port representative on Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board.
- Port representative on the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Board.
- Chaired “Century Agenda” process for the Port in 2008, our strategic planning process for the next 20 years, using diverse panels of stakeholders to gain input on four critical areas of real estate/land use, port financing, social responsibility and environmental stewardship.
- Port representative on Highline Forum (Southwest King County group of elected officials that meets every two months to discuss airport community issues).
- Port representative on enterpriseSeattle (economic development agency for King County).
- Member of the Commission Audit Committee (January 2009–present).
- Chaired Immigration Reform Business Roundtable, co-sponsored by One America in 2008, which brought together manufacturing concerns, service providers, agricultural trade groups and other business interests from across Washington State to discuss the impact of federal immigration policy on business competitiveness.

| What ratings and endorsements have you received? |  |
|--|--|
| Legislative District Democrats                   | Reuven Carlyle, Deb Eddy, Fred Jarrett, Tina Orwall, Dave Upthegrove, Dow Constantine, Julia Patterson, Larry Phillips, Jan Drago, Bruce Harrell, Lloyd Hara, Norm Rice, Paul Schell |
| Union Endorsement                                | IAF Local 1257, Carpenters Local Union 1797  |
| Municipal League                                 | Not yet issued.  |
| SEAMEC   | Not yet issued.  |
| Other Endorsements                               | Builders United in Legislative Development, Seattle King County Association of Realtors  |

## Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

King County Labor Council, ILWU, Machinists, SEIU, Teamsters, Airline Unions, Alki Foundation, Eastside Business Alliance, King County Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, Allied Arts, Historic Seattle, Master Builders

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| 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.

I differ with the King County Democrats Platform on the following issues:

- While I wholeheartedly support freedom of religion and separation of church and state as enshrined by our founding fathers in the US Constitution, I also support the placing of religious symbols reflective of the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded in public spaces during the Christmas season.
- While I support a progressive tax system that does not unduly burden low income families, I do not support an income tax or any other change to our state tax system that would discourage businesses from locating and creating jobs in our region, or talented people from moving to our state. I also do not support a state level estate tax that is not deductible from federal estate tax obligations, as I believe that it drives away people with the means and talent to foster economic activity that benefits everyone in our region, and in the end

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decreases the total amount of revenue that the state would otherwise receive through its tax system.

- I support the “No Child Left Behind” Act and the retention of state-wide student assessment exams that can measure how well our education system is serving the needs of our children and equipping them with the skills necessary for them to succeed in life. Our state cannot succeed without ensuring a skilled, competitive workforce.
- I support publicly funded charter schools and voucher programs, and examining other innovative ways to equip our children with the skills necessary to compete and succeed in modern society.
- I support the United States government pursuing policies that guard against multi-lateral institutions from infringing on our national sovereignty when the policies promoted by those institutions do not serve US national interests. I do not support adding to the federal bureaucracy by creating a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence – I believe that we currently have an extremely capable Secretary of State who can promote those values within her agency.
- While I support a comprehensive national health care policy that promotes universal coverage, I believe that each individual citizen should have a choice in their health plan and health provider.
- I do not support government interference in the faith-based policies of religious institutions.
- I believe that, under our federal system, whether a particular state implements right to work laws should be decided by the citizens of that state. I support maintaining the status quo in the State of Washington.
- I don't support a blanket policy prohibiting the privatization of prisons and jails. I believe that each locality needs to decide what is best in view of its particular circumstance, and that there are many rehabilitative-oriented services associated with our correctional system that are more efficiently provided by private operators. I do, however, support mandatory standards for private operators.

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?

In the current election cycle I have contributed to Reagan Dunn.

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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?

I have contributed to the King County Democratic Party as well as Democratic candidates at the federal, state and local level.

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?

My three priorities on the Port Commission are to:

- continue making the investments necessary to keep the Port strong as a sustainable jobs creation/economic development engine for our region.
- continue the Commission's efforts to make the Port a more transparent, accountable public agency, reflective of our community's values.
- continue to advocate and vote for policies that will help the Port achieve its goal to be "the cleanest, greenest, most energy efficient port in the country."

My fundraising goal is \$250,000 and as of May 5, 2009, I have raised over \$90,000. I plan to do mailings, phone calls, radio spots and yard signs. I have a paid political consultant, fundraiser and campaign manager. I will win because I am dedicated to putting in the time and resources necessary to run a successful campaign. In my first run for public office in 2005, I was the only challenger to defeat an incumbent in any local race in King County. I believe that I was successful in 2005 because of my positive messaging and my hard work in pounding the pavement and talking with voters all over the County.

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

The single most pressing issue for the Port of Seattle is to make sure that we are pursuing the right policies and making the right investments to keep our Port competitive and retain the good paying family wage jobs generated by the Port in King County. If re-elected, I intend to continue working with my fellow commissioners to push positive change at the Port of Seattle, and improve our competitiveness and ability to promote economic development and create jobs in the region, while operating in a financially responsible, transparent and accountable way.

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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.

As of today, I do not have a declared challenger in my race. I feel that my values and my governing record align with Democratic Party values and priorities.

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

I believe that recent state-wide anti-tax initiatives have gutted state and local government's ability to provide critical services, such as transportation infrastructure. The state and the region need to explore other sources of revenue that do not act as a disincentive to jobs creation in this state, but that are progressive and fair, and generate the funds necessary to adequately provide critical government services.

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

The Committee to End Homelessness's 10-year plan is an admirable effort that so far has achieved real and measurable results. Particular attention needs to be paid to efforts to prevent homelessness in the first place. The Committee's work with support programs and stop-gap measures has helped hundreds of families from being forced onto the streets. The problem has been exacerbated by the loss of affordable, low rent apartments, as many units were converted to condos that now in the current economy sit vacant. Without the regulatory authority to limit these conversions, the City of Seattle lost hundreds of affordable housing units.

By working with developers and property managers, the City can negotiate to have many of these units opened up to families who have found themselves homeless but do not require more intensive support services. This will get families off the street while providing a measure of support to developers hard hit by the collapse of the housing market.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

While I support a comprehensive national health care policy that promotes universal coverage, I believe that each individual citizen should have a choice in his or her health plan and health provider.

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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?

I support equal rights for all people, regardless of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Same sex couples that choose to spend their lives together should have all benefits, legal protections and rights that a man and woman receive when they marry.

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

The most important thing that our society can do to address poverty is provide quality education and training. Ensuring that our children receive the highest quality education possible in mathematics and science will give them a strong foundation to succeed in today's changing economy. Beyond initial education, we must also ensure that we are constantly re-training ourselves to adapt to changing circumstances in the world job market. For the disadvantaged among us, there are already non-profits and government programs that give additional training and provide job-seeking support, but more can be done. By expanding these programs and seeking creative ways to reach out to at-risk people in the community, we are better able to help individuals find meaningful careers that elevate them out of poverty while strengthening our society as a whole.

I have been a strong supporter of PortJobs, the nonprofit organization established by the Port of Seattle to, among other things, promote apprenticeship opportunities in the trades and other airport and seaport-related lines of work, particularly for low income and disadvantaged individuals.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

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|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Printed Name | John Creighton     | Date        |
| Signature    | /s/ John Creighton | May 5, 2009 |