

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	David D. Miller
Position sought	Washington State Senate interim appointment
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 th Legislative District, County Council District 1, 7 th Congressional District
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	I am a Democrat, and proud to be known as such. I am on the 46 th District Executive Board.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	n/a
Web page	n/a
Campaign Email address	David.Miller@MillerForSeattle.org
Manager	n/a
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 75187 Seattle, WA 98175
Campaign phone number	206-517-5520
Campaign FAX	n/a

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.

I graduated cum laude in 1990 from Western Washington University with a degree in Communications and minors in Business, Political Science, and English. I was my Communications department's Most Outstanding Graduate in 1990.

I am the co-founder and CEO of Biotech Stock Research. BSR provides detailed financial and scientific analysis of biotech companies for individual and professional investors. This work requires accurately analyzing complicated data sets and translating them into plain language usable by individuals with diverse backgrounds. BSR was founded as, and remains to this day, a fiercely independent provider of investment research.

I have taught at the University of Washington-Bothell campus as an adjunct professor in the Business department. I co-created UWB's Entrepreneur's Workshop, an undergraduate program that launched over 90 companies in the ten years it was operational - what we believe is the best business-creation performance of any undergraduate entrepreneurial program in the nation.

From 1991- 1998 I worked for Versidata Systems, Inc. overseeing this software company's growth from a garage business to a regional market leader.

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During college, I put myself through school working summers on the graveyard and swing shifts at Grays Harbor Paper Company, where I worked under the rules and protections of the collective bargaining agreement between the company and AWPPW Local 315.

I am the past President of the Maple Leaf Community Council (MLCC), and have been an elected member of its Executive Board for a number of years. I currently serve as the MLCC's Land Use and Transportation subcommittee chair and the Business subcommittee chair. Maple Leaf is a north Seattle neighborhood of over 4,000 homes and businesses. I have previously represented Maple Leaf on the North Seattle District Council, one of 13 city-chartered District Councils, and on the Seattle Police Department's North Precinct Advisory Committee.

I joined the Green Legacy Coalition in 2007 to work to convince City Council to place a parks levy on the ballot in 2008, which we did. I was appointed by the Council to the Parks & Green Spaces Levy Citizens' Advisory Committee that constructed the parks levy. I worked on the steering committee for the Parks For All campaign that advocated for passing the parks levy. I work closely with Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders, Seattle Save Our Trees, and several other organizations on issues relating to preservation, inventory, and restoration of our urban tree canopy.

I am chair of Sidewalks and Streets for Seattle, a group opposing Seattle Transportation Benefit District Proposition 1 (\$60 car tab tax). We believe in transportation funding in Seattle, but strongly believe Prop 1 is imbalanced, regressive, and vague. Our campaign received the endorsement of the 46th and 11th District Democrats, the Municipal League of King County, and the Seattle/King County League of Women Voters.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	In my 2009 race for Seattle City Council, I was endorsed by the King County Democrats, the 11 th District Democrats, the 34 th District Democrats, the 37 th District Democrats, and the 46 th District Democrats. I have not sought any endorsements in this race and I am not suggesting those listed above would endorse me in this race. I list them only for informational purposes.
Union Endorsement	In my 2009 race for Seattle City Council, I received more Labor endorsements than any other candidate. Endorsing Unions in that race included: Seattle Building Trades, UNITE/HERE Local 8, Amalgamated Transit Union 587, ILWU Local 52, IATSE Local 15, IUOE Local 302, IBEW Local 46, IAM Local 751, Laborers Local 242, and Iron Workers Local 86. I have not sought any endorsements in this race and I am not suggesting those listed above would endorse me in this race. I list them only for informational purposes.
Municipal League	In my 2009 Seattle City Council race, I was rated "Very Good"
SEAMEC	In my 2009 Seattle City Council race, I was very proud to have been rated "4" and received Straight "A's" from SEAMEC

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Other Endorsements	In my 2009 City Council Race, I was endorsed by hundreds of Seattle residents and groups, including: Seattle Nightlife & Music Association, Sen. Margarita Prentice, (then) Rep. Scott White, KC Council Bob Ferguson, and former Seattle Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck. I have not sought any endorsements in this race and I am not suggesting those listed above would endorse me in this race. I list them only for informational purposes.
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Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?
In this special situation, the endorsement of the 46th District Democrats is the only endorsement that matters.

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 government funding of Planned Parenthood and other family planning services, including abortion and contraception?	X		
4	Do you support majority votes by state and local governments to enact taxes for revenue and to repeal tax exemptions?	X		
5	Do you support the Affordable Health Care Act?	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 Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change?	X		
10	Do you support a constitutional amendment to limit free speech rights to persons, not corporations?	X		
11	Do you support public financing of campaigns?	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

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

Question 6: If we fund and outfit our public schools at the same levels we see in private schools and continue to see a performance deficit, then and only then would I entertain a *discussion* on school vouchers or charter schools. Our problem in public schools is largely a funding problem. Until we equalize that, we should not take tax dollars away from the public school system and give it to private schools.

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 and when?

No and 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. I am not a PCO, but I was elected in 2011 to the 46th District Democrats' Executive Board

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'm filing this questionnaire to help satisfy constitutional requirements for three eligible candidates for the King County Council to choose from to fill Senator Scott White's Senate seat after his untimely death.

The "campaign" will be limited to the 46th District Democrat and King County Democrats forums and nominating events.

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

The budget issues at the state level are dominating the conversation. Restrictions placed on lawmaker flexibility by Tim Eyman initiatives make solving this problem more difficult. We are continually presented with all cuts budgets, and we need to break that approach in the special session that starts at the end of November 2011. We must close loopholes that are not performing as planned. We must make the case to ALL of Washington that public services have benefits and not just costs. We must be very careful how we spend tax dollars, because even isolated cases of misuse support Republican goals to dismantle government and our social safety net.

I would first apply my decades of business experience to analyze under- and non-performing tax loopholes. All loopholes need to have their benefits measured against funding schools and keeping our social safety net intact. I believe it is **very** important to have a Progressive Democrat, like myself, with extensive business experience on the team in the Washington State Legislature. The knowledge I bring of business processes and business creation would help inform and advance critical discussions and debates on how Washington State moves forward in these difficult economic times.

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I would also seek to sponsor and co-sponsor bills allowing local jurisdictions more flexibility to raise revenues for spending they believe is important. With Republicans and pseudo-Democrats serving to gridlock budget flexibility in Olympia, the Washington State Legislature has a moral responsibility to provide more financial flexibility at the county and city level to fund services important to county and city residents.

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.

My likely expected opponents in this race, Representative David Frockt and Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney are already serving in the State Legislature. I will support the top pick of the 46th District Democrats in this process.

In terms of distinguishing characteristics, I think the one differential focus I would bring to the position is remembering that my job is to represent the citizens of the City of Seattle. Our City's Legislators tend to work on big picture items, which is not a bad thing. However, we have a history of Seattle getting the short end of the stick from the Legislature. Part of this is self-inflicted by ham-handed comments and attitudes from a series of Seattle City officials, but working to eliminate Seattle's second-class status in Olympia would be a focus. The fact I grew up in a small timber town (Hoquiam, WA), and would be a "fresh" face in Olympia likely provides me an advantage in speaking with Legislators across the state to begin addressing this issue.

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 we need a state income tax in Washington State and favor a proposal where we exchange the Constitutional prohibition on an income tax for a prohibition (or near prohibition) against sales and use taxes. I believe this is the only way a state income tax in the state will pass with voters. There are meaningful local funding issues with such a switch that would need to be carefully worked out, but I believe the benefits of a progressive statewide income tax would be worth the swap.

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

First, we need to redefine the levels at which housing can be declared "affordable". For example, Seattle's common definition of affordable housing equal to the 80% GMI generates rents comparable to market rents. Despite the fact such programs don't actually create housing that meets the common-sense definition of affordable (i.e. less than market rate), we provide millions in tax breaks. This means we lose twice.

We can't simply depend on developer incentives to generate affordable housing. We need to have well-run, accountable housing programs where overhead across the program is minimized and the generation of affordable units is maximized.

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What role should government play in the healthcare system?

I favor a public option national healthcare system and the individual insurance mandate. At the state level, I believe Olympia needs to look very closely at the programs put in place at King County as they have demonstrated significant financial and health outcome benefits

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?

My SEAMEC rating of '4' and straight A's when I ran for Seattle City Council in 2009 is one objective indication of my support for GLBT+ individuals in our society. GLBT individuals should have the same access to societal protections of marriage, benefits, and parental rights. Civil unions were a necessary intermediate step, but we need to move to full marriage equality in Washington State and across America.


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

The most exciting thing about the coming green jobs revolution is, if we do it correctly, it can serve as an engine for economic, environmental, *AND* social change. Green economy jobs are GED to PhD – in other words, they provide opportunities to people of all educational and economic backgrounds.

Washington State has a permanent, global competitive advantage in the green economy due to our low-carbon and inexpensive power supply. At some point, we will get a carbon tax or something like it nationally. That provides our state an instant competitive advantage over almost all others and a significant global competitive advantage. We cannot wait, however, for the carbon tax to come. We need to be selling this competitive advantage to employers right now.

Both these things are for our future, but there are two things we can do for the economically disadvantaged right now: First, let's not create more of them by an all-cuts budget. Second, let's make sure we do everything we can in Olympia to attract new businesses with the natural, existing advantages we have as a State – adequately funding clean power, excellent schools, and environmental monitoring to retain our very attractive physical environment.

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

Printed Name	David D. Miller	Date
Signature		November 1, 2011