

# King County Democrats 2010 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Gabe Meyer
Position sought	46 <sup>th</sup> District State Representative
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	46 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District, County Council District 1, Congressional District 7
<b>Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?</b>	YES! I'm known as a supporter of social justice and better government.
<b>Campaign Information</b>	
Campaign Name	Vote Gabe Meyer
Web page	Gabe Meyer Facebook page
Campaign Email address	reachgabe@yahoo.com
Manager	none
Campaign mailing address	10545 Meridian Ave N, #102 Seattle, WA 98133 (home)
Campaign phone number	206-999-4071 (personal cell)
Campaign FAX	none

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.

## **Gabe Meyer, an Ambassador for Seattle Values**

### Relevant Experience

Seattle has been my home for 16 years now and has helped me build a social conscience. Before moving here, I was raised in the economically disadvantaged small town of Long Beach, Washington where my graduating class had a 60% dropout rate (from 145 to 65). Only about 10 to 15 of us went to college and 15 to 20 joined the service. I realize now that the friends I grew up with, as well as the underserved and underrepresented in our community, don't deserve the poverty, lack of opportunity, and income disparity that we see in this country. I want to go to Olympia as an "Ambassador" for Seattle values to fight to build a more just society.

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I will represent the 46<sup>th</sup> District with strong progressive values, innovation, compassion, courage, and resolve. I have held positions of leadership my whole life (from ASB President to Co-Chair of the Municipal League) and have overcome large personal challenges. I am a strong public speaker and negotiator. My collaborative nature, excellent relational skills, and good strategic abilities help me find success. Tolerance and compassion are at the root of my motivation and help me listen and communicate well with diverse groups of people. I see the big picture, I am a hard worker, and I will advocate for innovative solutions to our state's collective problems.

I am running because I will be the most effective ambassador for our Seattle values in Olympia and across Washington. As an ambassador for our values, I will stand up to the system where corporate interests come first and money equals power. My background and experience make me a strong and effective advocate for social and environmental justice, better schools, and access to job training, continuing education, and wealth creation. The best thing about America is our social mobility and I will always advocate for improved opportunity for all Washingtonians.

An ambassador reaches out to adversaries and friends alike to find common ground, but relentlessly presses for their constituents' values and interests. The 46<sup>th</sup> district needs someone with my background who is courageous enough to fight the status quo and bring change. I am committed to moving the center left in Olympia to put people above special interests. I will be an ambassador for our shared values.

## Education:

### ***Seton Hall University***

#### ***John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations***

#### Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Relations, South Orange, NJ

- *Seton Hall* continued to build my leadership and negotiating skills. I studied institutional change and economic development. I learned how to be diplomatic and collaborative while also holding strong positions and working to find common ground. I will be a successful advocate for our values, thanks in part to this master's degree.

### ***Seattle Pacific University***

#### Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; Minor in Communications, Seattle, WA

- SPU showed me that conservative beliefs are highly tied to a specific culture and that religion plays a large role. I also know that there are many issues where we can find common ground. This experience prepares me well to negotiate and represent Seattle's culture and values across the state.

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## Employment History:

I have worked in social services in inner city Los Angeles, in international affairs, on campaigns for Democrats, and as a fundraiser for important non-profits and advocacy organization. These professional experiences have prepared me to be an effective state legislator and ambassador for Seattle's values.

- **Art with Heart**, Director of Marketing & Special Events  
*Seattle, WA—March 2011–Present*
- **City Club, Seattle Works, WA Woman's Political Caucus, Washington Public Campaigns**, Contract Fundraiser  
*Seattle, WA—2009-2010*
- **World Affairs Council**, Director of Membership, Outreach, & Special Events  
*Seattle, WA-2006-2008*
- **Initiative for Global Development**, National Network Coordinator  
*Seattle, WA—2005*
- **Business Council for the United Nations**, Marketing & Development Associate  
*New York, NY—2003*
- **World Affairs Council**, Director of Public Programs  
*Seattle, WA—2002*
- **World Economic Forum**, Davos Annual Meeting External Staff  
*Davos, Switzerland—2000 & 2001*
- **Terris, Jay, & Barns Political Consultants**, Political Coordinator  
*San Jose, CA—2000*
- **Mike Honda for Congress/Neighbor to Neighbor PAC**, Political Field Manager  
*San Jose, CA—2000*
- **The Center for Student Missions**, Interim City Director  
*Los Angeles, CA—2000*

## Community and civic activity:

Before joining the 46<sup>th</sup> District's Executive Board, I worked closely with the Municipal League of King County to improve government and educate the public on civic issues. I started at the Muni-League as a volunteer for their Candidate Evaluation Program (CEC) and the next year chaired the committee that rated School Board and King County Candidates. After that, I joined the board and was elected as the CEC Chair. I

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ran the CEC for two years. In 2010, I was elected Board Co-Chair (along with Kathy Elias) and helped chair the organization during its centennial year. These positions gave me great access to city, county, and state officials and have prepared me to navigate electoral and governing systems. I gained much knowledge and built many relationships in local politics and government. My community/civic service include:

**46th District Democrats**-Board Member at Large, Elections Director—*2011*  
**Rally to Restore Sanity, Seattle**—*2010 (Organizing Committee, Street Emcee)*  
**Municipal League of King County**—*2007-Present (Board Co-Chair, 2010)*  
**Young Professional International Network**—*2006-Present*  
**Obama Delegate, 43<sup>rd</sup> District**—*2008*  
**Wallingford Boys & Girls Club**—*2005-2006*

In 2009, I was selected for a fellowship with the Institute for a Democratic Future (IDF), where I learned about local, state, and national politics, government, and policy. As part of the program, I finished the Wellstone campaign training. IDF was invaluable and I encourage everyone to apply.

Below are organizations that I have relationships with, have lobbied for, given money to, and believe would be a great help if elected to represent the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

**Economic Opportunity Institute**  
**FUSE**  
**Institute for a Democratic Future (class of 2009)**  
**One America (formerly Hate Free Zone)**  
**Poverty Action Network**  
**Washington Budget & Policy Center**  
**Washington BUS**  
**Washington CAN**  
**Washington Public Campaigns**  
**Working Washington**

## Union affiliation:

I worked closely with unions when I was a Field Manager for Neighbor to Neighbor PAC, helping win the race for U.S. Congressman Mike Honda. My career has mainly been in the non-profit sector, with few opportunities to collectively bargain.

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What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Legislative District Democrats	
Union Endorsement	
Municipal League	
SEAMEC	
Other Endorsements	

Which groups do you plan to ask for an endorsement?

Those mentioned above and others.

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.

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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 & maybe. I think Bob Dole may have received some of my money when I was young and stupid. I'm now a progressive democrat through and through.

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, & no. I live in precinct #46-2127, which has had another PCO since I have lived in the 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?

## **Message of my campaign**

I am running because I will be the most effective "Ambassador" for our Seattle values in Olympia and across Washington State. My platform rests on social justice and better government. I became a liberal because I wanted to see change, fight the status quo, and build a more just society. I now want to give an effective voice to the protestors in the street and make progressives proud to be Democrat. I have the skills and background needed to be effective, have a plan to bring change, and will take steps to improve government and our political system.

I am tired of having to apologize for being a liberal Seattleite. I take pride in my city and our values and want to go to Olympia to represent us like an ambassador. My plan is to reach out to find common ground on improving Washington. I learned from Scott White that being thoughtful, optimistic, humorous, and easy to get along with is effective in advancing progressive positions and negotiating reasonable policy.

As an ambassador for Seattle's liberal values, I will work towards social justice. I will support progressive policies to limit corporate power and build a more just taxing system. As a representative, I will take a personal approach in limiting organized influence on my actions to stay accountable to the 46<sup>th</sup> district. I will only support policies that put the people and the environment first, are outcome-oriented and solve problems. There are tradeoffs in every piece of legislation, but finding innovative ways to protect the people and promote justice will be my top priority.

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I am also concerned about the way government works. Washington needs new and sustainable revenue and a more just system of taxation. Progressives have lost at the ballot box on a number of occasions—a result of poor messaging and ineffective and unresponsive state government. Private companies are consistently more trusted than government because they communicate well, have disciplined marketing strategies, and pay a greater attention to customer service. Public institutions are often more concerned with inputs than outcomes and too often citizens have a negative experience when working in the system. I plan to introduce laws that improve citizens' experience interacting with the state government. I will support budget decisions based on outcomes that serve the people. King County is doing an outstanding job in moving in this direction, and I plan to transfer some of that knowledge to the state.

28 states passed budgets in 2010 that included new revenue—red and blue states alike! You may be thinking that they do not have Eyman style limits on taxation. Does that mean we've lost? I'm here to speak the truth. And the truth is: progressives are losing in Olympia right now. Each year our ideas and positions get lost in the shuffle. We need more courage and leadership to stand up for what's right.

There are many reasons we have passed only all-cuts budgets in the last few years. Some of them are institutional and some of them political. If I get elected, you can count on having a strong advocate for Seattle values and social justice.

I pledge right now that I will NOT VOTE FOR AN ALL-CUTS BUDGET without a plan for new revenue. It is unjust to continue tax-loopholes for big banks, private jets, soda syrup, plastic surgery, professional wrestling, and others while making cuts to the basic health plan, public schools and universities, cities and county budgets, and criminal and juvenile justice. While we are cutting funding for hospital beds, chicken coop beds continue to get a tax cut!

I support using the model of city and county governments to put forth a "Families and Education" style referendum to create new funding for education and social services. These are just policies and will take courage and resolve to pass. There are also good strategies for sun-setting corporate loopholes (this bill should be our compromise) but I would also support a referendum to close the top tax loopholes immediately.

A vote for Gabe Meyer is a vote for strong and effective progressive leadership. Appoint me as your Ambassador for Seattle Values.

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## Campaign plan, fundraising, network, & strategy

This is a special election but I know I can succeed in a regular campaign and election. I am an effective public speaker, have a large network of supporters, and am an accomplished fundraiser. I have what it takes to run a good campaign and get elected (or re-elected).

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

Disparate economic opportunities

Long-term unemployment

High cost-of-living

A regressive tax structure that attacks social justice and opportunity

For too long, conservatives have dominated the budget negotiations in Olympia with complete disregard for those affected most by the current economic crisis. Economic opportunity and social justice begin with a progressive tax structure that allows our state to adequately fund the services citizens of the 46<sup>th</sup> District value.

While in Olympia, I promise to fight for a budget and for policies that protect the most vulnerable and support the working families of the 46<sup>th</sup> district.

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.

I am the candidate with the most effective leadership experience to bring about the change we need. We can all agree on issues. Having an opinion doesn't matter if you can't be a strong confident leader in the fight for justice and fairness. I have the resolve to do what's right and the courage to make decisions based on our values over politics. I have experience leading innovative approaches and building strong alliances with people of all backgrounds. That experience is what the Legislature needs to fight for our shared values. Values don't pass legislation. Effective leadership and relationships get our values across the finish line.

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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?

We need major tax reform in Washington State so we can add tools for revenue generation and create a more equitable taxing structure. Our system hurts working families more than any state in the country. Democrats statewide should take a page from Seattle and King County and create statewide initiatives that pay for specific services. We should create a "Families and Education" style referendum to support education and social services. Additionally, I support closing loopholes immediately or the creation of sunset provisions. I would promote these position in Olympia and throughout Washington through a referendum if we do not have the votes. Lastly, I support a high-earners income tax and will work not only to pass it in Olympia but at the ballot box state-wide. I also support further estate taxes for the rich.

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

Controlling housing costs is the best way to lower the cost of living for Washington residents. I believe in a system of incentives and penalties to regulate development and housing companies to promote lower housing costs and fight homelessness. Eviction and loan default policies must also be updated. The state's housing policy should be less focused on helping developers build supposedly affordable housing and more focused on programs that provide families with long-term stable housing options. Last, access to credit services, low-interest home loans, and wealth creation are also very important.

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

Medical conditions are not a choice and access to adequate healthcare should not be a benefit extended only to those who can afford it. The ability to live a healthy life is a human right and should be protected by the state constitution. It should not be a for-profit endeavor. The health of the patient should always come before profits. I support a single payer healthcare system though believe that Washington could do better in managing healthcare systems to build upon new federal laws for healthcare.

This particular issue is personal for me. When I was a child, I did not have health insurance until the age of 13, when it was required in order to play football in Junior High. I promptly broke my leg and the school-provided healthcare only covered about 10% of the total costs. My parents took on a payment plan that lasted 15 years. This was 20+ years ago and costs have risen exponentially since.

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Better systems exist throughout the world and have been proven to provide better and more equitable care. This is a good example of why Seattle needs an ambassador for its values. I will stand up to insurance and pharmaceutical companies and support a new system that is fair and open to all.

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 look forward to a time when all my LGBT friends have the same rights and privileges as all married couples. I believe in equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Washingtonians. Next year, I look forward to supporting full marriage equality for this community in our state. I will also advocate for further parental rights and the recognition of Washington's laws throughout the United States.

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

Access to economic opportunity is the key to address the problems of poor and middle class working families, young people, and the elderly in Washington State. The statistics are staggering. Income disparity between many different populations continues to rise, unemployment and underemployment rates are unacceptable, and job opportunities for all are lagging behind. Access to education, job training, small business loans, and healthcare are all needed to bring us out of this recession.

There are many innovative programs in the non-profit, academic, and public sector that address these problems. A combination of public and private funding to help them meet the need is key to finding a solution. Rewarding solutions that work and sharing information is also important to find creative solutions.

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

Printed Name	Gabe Meyer	Date
Signature	<i>Gabriel C.R. Meyer</i>	