

King County Democrats 2011 General Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Peter Goldmark
Position sought	Commissioner of Public Lands
Residence Legislative, County Council and Congressional district	22 nd LD, Thurston County, 3 rd CD
Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat?	Yes and Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Goldmark for Public Lands Commissioner
Web page	www.petergoldmark.com
Campaign Email address	peter@petergoldmark.com
Manager	TBD
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 12917 Seattle, WA 98111
Campaign phone number	(206) 913-8619
Campaign FAX	

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 graduated from Okanogan High School in Okanogan and in 1967 received a degree from Haverford College near Philadelphia. After receiving my Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1971, I traveled to Harvard University for a postdoctoral fellowship in neurobiology. I moved back to Okanogan in 1972 with my wife, Georgia. Together, we raised our five children on the family ranch. Sadly, Georgia succumbed to cancer in 2003.

I have had a lifelong involvement with agriculture, science, education, and public service. Included among my public service positions are the following:

- Director of Agriculture for State of Washington, appointed by Governor Lowry in 1993
- Chairman of the Governor's Council on Agriculture and the Environment in 1994-1996
- Governor's Council for a Sustainable Washington in 2002-2003
- Governor's Council on Biodiversity in 2004-2005
- Founding board member and past Chairman of the Board of Farming and the Environment, a unique coalition of farmers, ranchers, and conservationists founded in 1999
- Board of Regents of Washington State University, 1996-2005; President of the Board in 1999-2000
- Board of the Washington State University-University of Washington Policy Consensus Center, 2003-2008
- Okanogan School Board, 1998-2005
- Wildland firefighter, Okanogan County, Fire District No. 8 - 30+ years

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- Commissioner of Public Lands, 2009 to present

I maintain a small scientific research facility at my ranch and have published scientific articles in national and international journals. In 2008 I was elected Commissioner of Public Lands and have served in that capacity since.

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?

No definitive plan as of yet, but at the very least we will be asking all County and LD Democratic organizations, as well as all major environmental organizations and labor organizations.

Please answer the following questions*		Yes	No	Qualified
1	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	Y		
2	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?			
3	Do you support government funding of Planned Parenthood and other family planning services, including abortion and contraception?			
4	Do you support majority votes by state and local governments to enact taxes for revenue and to repeal tax exemptions?			
5	Do you support the Affordable Health Care Act?			
6	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?			
7	Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?			
8	Do you support equal rights for women?			
9	Do you support Federal and State regulation of greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change?			
10	Do you support a constitutional amendment to limit free speech rights to persons, not corporations?			
11	Do you support public financing of campaigns?			

Please answer the following questions *		Yes*	No
1	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		N
2	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission,		N

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	Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		
3	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?		N

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

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. I have been a lifelong Democrat.

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?

Prior to serving as Commissioner I was a PCO in Okanogan County for many years and was very active in the Okanogan County Democrats. In 2006 I ran for Congress as a Democrat and in 2008 I ran for Commissioner of Public Lands as a Democrat. I have made financial contributions to both the state Democratic Party and the Okanogan County Democrats.

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?

When I took office in 2008 I had three fundamental principles that I believed should guide the critical work done by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I wanted us to manage state lands sustainably, make decisions based on sound science, and operate with a high degree of transparency so that the public is aware of the decisions that are being made by the agency. One of the primary messages my campaign will deliver is that these principles have been applied over the last three years with enormous success.

Among my highest priorities for the next term is continue our good work to recover Puget Sound to health by 2020. As our state's most treasured natural resource, the Sound must be cherished and preserved so that future generations of Washingtonians can benefit from it just as much as we do. One example of this stewardship is the work we did on Maury Island. Immediately after taking office I asked my staff to take a thorough look at the proposed gravel mine expansion on Maury Island. Once we concluded that the plans were counter to our agency and other's efforts to recover the Sound, we ended the lease and prevented the company from dramatically impacting Puget Sound.

The other main message I want to deliver to voters is the efforts I am making to help get our state back to work and grow the green economy. We've recently overseen the completion of two bio-energy pilot projects that are utilizing waste to produce energy and getting people in rural communities back to work. I recently traveled to Eastern Washington for the dedication of one of these projects, located at the Springdale Lumber Mill. Before Borgford Bioenergy purchased the mill, the facility had been closed for nearly five years. Now the mill is back up and running, converting the

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waste produced by the sawmill's operations into energy that will support the mill and the surrounding community. Now that it has been reopened, the mill will provide 34 full time jobs.

The fundraising goal for my campaign is currently set at \$600,000. This is the amount I feel needs to be raised to effectively communicate my message to the voters of Washington and defeat a strong challenger in November. To date, I have raised slightly over \$200,000, and I look forward to renewing my fundraising push as soon as the legislative session freeze has ended.

The campaign has not knocked on any doors to date, but will certainly have a strong ground campaign when we get closer to the election date. The mail, budget, and staffing elements of the campaign are under discussion, but we will need to know what the caliber of the opponent is before making the crucial decisions of how to best distribute our resources to run an effective campaign.

First and foremost, I will win re-election because I am the best man for the job. I came into office promising to reform the way the Department does business and I have done so. I kept the promises I made to the voters in 2008 and have a strong report to give them about the state of DNR. Furthermore, I will outwork any opponent who decides to challenge me. I have successfully defeated a strong, two-term incumbent for statewide office. That doesn't happen without enormous amounts of hard work. Campaigns aren't easy, but I relish the opportunity to carry my message to voters and remind them how crucial the office is and why I am the best man for the job.

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

There is no doubt that the economy is the most pressing issue facing us all. At DNR, we have made strategic investments to achieve our mission while getting people back to work. In our Aquatics division, we have workers removing old creosote pilings that are contaminating Puget Sound. In the forests, DNR has invested \$4 million over the last two years towards silvicultural treatments. These efforts improve the health of our forests, protect them against disease, allow for proper stand development and improve the value of the resource.

In addition, the Department recently celebrated the launch of the Puget Sound Corps, which was created to get young people and veterans working on the restoration of Puget Sound. The first crew was launched November 10, where members will be removing invasive weeds and replanting hundreds of native plants at the nine-acre Gog-le-hi-te wetland park in Tacoma.

I'm particularly proud of our work on Sound Corps, because of how quickly we were able to put our plans into action. In less than a year we took a good idea and brought it all the way to fruition. In these tough economic times, returning veterans have often found it difficult to find work when they return home from serving our country overseas. The Sound Corps is an excellent way to get them working on a vital state mission, preserving our natural resources for generations to come.

In my next term I want to continue to focus on building our state's natural resource economy. People come to Washington because it is one of the best places in the world to work, live and raise a family. Part of what makes Washington so special is our treasured natural resources. Investing in them will continue this legacy long into the future.

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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.

N/A

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?

There are many sources of funding for DNR programs. We receive a significant allotment from the state general fund (\$63 million for FY 11-13 prior to this session's budget cuts), but there are also different fees, which are used to support various programs within the Department. While most of these fee for service programs do not fully recover the cost of running the program, the fee that stands out as being the least fair is the fee associated with the Forest Practices Application (FPA).

The current fee for completing an FPA is \$50; nowhere near enough to run the program. Before the financial crisis, when the Forest Practices program was fully functioning, it cost approximately \$40 million a biennium to run. Unfortunately, the fees only generate about \$700,000 a biennium, making the program heavily reliant on general funds. As the legislature has been forced to cut large chunks out of the state budget, the program has suffered severe setbacks.

Forest Practices is currently operating at \$29 million for the biennium, making it unable to fully deliver on its goals, including road maintenance and abandonment objectives, clean water act assurances benchmarks, and much more. The fees we collect can be an important factor in ensuring the program can play its crucial regulatory role of protecting working forests, streams, endangered species and the quality of the air we breath.

With an increase in fees can come valuable reforms that will help make the program more efficient. Currently, FPA fees are sent to the state general fund, as opposed to being directed toward the program itself. Increasing the fees and dedicating them to the program will provide a more substantial, stable source of funding into the future.

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

N/A

What role should government play in the healthcare system?

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N/A

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?

N/A

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

The work described above to help get people back to work and invest in our natural resources should all be beneficial to the economically disadvantaged, particularly those who have lost their jobs as a result of this recession. The types of jobs DNR can make available are “shovel ready” and serve the dual purpose of putting people to work and restoring the natural environment that makes Washington unique.

With the legislature in session to close a \$1.5 billion budget gap, many legislators are thinking about a potential jobs package that, if approved by voters, would help get Washingtonians back to work. DNR has been working with members of the legislature to provide them with information about the areas that could utilize additional labor in the immediate future. We hope to see the funds made available so that DNR can play a role in helping people get back on their feet, doing meaningful work to restore the Sound, improve the health of our forests, and enhance recreation opportunities throughout the state.

I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Peter Goldmark	Date
Signature	Peter Goldmark	2/10/12