



# King County Democrats 2007 General Candidate Questionnaire

<b>Name</b>	Alec Fisken	<b>Position Sought</b>	Port of Seattle Commission, Position 5
<b>Campaign Address</b>	8315 Lake City Way NE PMB 167 Seattle, WA 98115	<b>Campaign Manager</b>	Paul Elliott
<b>City</b>	Seattle	<b>Phone Number</b>	206-354-3269
<b>State</b>	WA	<b>Fax Number</b>	206-365-2064 (call first)
<b>Zip Code</b>	98111-0926	<b>E-mail Address</b>	<a href="mailto:afisken@comcast.net">afisken@comcast.net</a>
<b>Precinct</b>	Sea-46-2331	<b>Web Page</b>	<a href="http://seattleportwatch.blogspot.com">http://seattleportwatch.blogspot.com</a>

<b>Present Occupation Incumbent? How Long?</b>	-Strategic Policy Advisor -Incumbent Port Commissioner, 4 years	<b>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</b> <i>(Leave Blank – For Committee Use Only)</i>
<b>Employer</b>	City of Seattle	
<b>Union Affiliations</b>	N/A	

WHAT RATINGS AND ENDORSEMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED?			
Legislative District(s)/Unions	Municipal League	Women's Political Caucus	SeaMEC
King Co. Democratic Central Committee 32 <sup>nd</sup> District Democrats	No rating yet	No rating yet	No rating yet

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.					
#	Question	Yes	No	Qualified*	
1.	Are you a Democrat? Are you known as a Democrat? If not, explain.	X			
2.	Do you support the King County Democratic Platform?	X			
3.	Do you support the right of workers (excluding military) to bargain and strike?	X			
4.	Do you support affirmative action?	X			
5.	Do you support freedom of choice in contraception, abortion and sterilization?	X			
6.	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	X			
7.	Do you support school vouchers? Do you support charter schools?		X		
8.	<b>Do you support the Davis-Bacon Act?</b>	X			
9.	Do you support equal rights for women?	X			
10.	Do you support the Patriot Act?		X		
11.	Do you support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of a felony who have served their sentence?	X			
12.	How long have you been registered to vote? Have you missed any elections in the last three years?	@35 yrs; no			
<b>If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions please explain on a separate sheet of paper.</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		
14.	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?			X	
15.	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?			X	
16.	Have you ever been convicted of a felony?			X	

\* - If you wish to qualify your answer, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet of paper.



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**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS  
(YOU MAY USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER FOR ANSWERS)**

**1. 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?**

I have always been a Democrat and have never joined any other political party. I have never given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race.

**2. 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 was originally a member of the 36<sup>th</sup> District, active in my precinct, and doorbelled for McGovern. In 1997 my family and I moved to the 46<sup>th</sup> District and I have been active there ever since. I am a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> District and its "4600 Club". I have never served as a PCO.

**3. 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? Why will you win? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date?**

Four years ago I defeated an incumbent on a platform that the Port had strayed from its core mission of promoting trade and the good family wages that come with it. Instead they were operating largely out of public view, doing things like investing in highly risky commercial real estate developments, and granting large lucrative no-bid contracts to well-heeled waterfront interests.

The main messages of my current campaign remain the same as in 2003: The Port of Seattle should operate without a public subsidy. It should vigorously advocate for the maritime, industrial, and tourism jobs that it has traditionally supported. And it should join the other West Coast ports, labor, and industry in the ongoing efforts to resolve the environmental issues associated with air quality and ballast water.

We will win, as we did in 2003, with the help of Democrats, environmentalists, and organized labor, on a reform agenda calling for the Port to return to its core mission of promoting trade and protecting family wage maritime and industrial jobs.

Doorbelling for this county-wide position would be an inefficient use of my time. We have planned a campaign budget of \$150,000, with several mailings. As of March 7, we have raised \$22,500. I have an all-volunteer staff of seasoned campaigners.

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

I will work hard with my Port Commission colleagues to meet the Port's most pressing issues: attacking air pollution generated by the diesel-dependent moving of cargo, ending sweetheart deals, and setting a new direction for the Port with the new Executive Director.

**5. 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.**

In this non-partisan race, I will be challenged in the primary by William Bryant, a Republican activist who is backed by powerful special interests and who works as a waterfront trade consultant. He donated the legal limit of \$4,200 to Mike McGavick's 2006 campaign to defeat Sen. Maria Cantwell. He donated \$2,000 to the Bush/Cheney reelection campaign, \$1,500 to Dino Rossi, and \$6,000 to the State Republican Party.



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I know more about ports than any other candidate. I understand the port's finances very well, having been a banker for 5 years, an investment banker for another 5, all 10 years devoted exclusively to municipal financing or municipal entities, including ports. I know the docks and the people who work there from my ten years at *Marine Digest*, and I spent 8 years as editor of the *Marine Regulatory Bulletin*, an environmental newsletter covering the details of port and maritime environmental issues.

**6. 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?**

It won't approach fairness until we get to a state income tax. The port's only role could be to reduce (over time) the property tax in King County.

**7. How would you balance continued growth, the quality of the environment and declining petroleum and energy resources? What is the role of the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO)?**

The Critical Area Ordinance is an excellent effort to preserve rural land in our region but the policies need to be implemented in a way that is responsive to individual situations.

**8. The caucus system helps Democratic Party members in a legislative body work together and stick together. Do you support determining leadership positions and committee chair positions *solely within* the ranks of the Democratic Caucus?**

Yes

**9. What role should government play in the healthcare system?**

It should operate a single-payer system.

**10. 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?**

All should be protected.

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

The current port property tax - \$68 million per year - would be enough to hire 600 teachers or house the homeless. So:

1. Weaning the port from its tax subsidy to free resources for other community needs; and,
2. Advocating for the trade, maritime and industrial employment opportunities that a diverse community needs.

**12. What would you like us to know about you?**

It hasn't always been easy or pleasant to be the voice demanding change at the port, but I've spent these past four years calling for greater accountability and transparency. I spoke out against giving a 6% raise to the Port CEO earning \$340,000 six months before he was to retire, a raise that increased his life-long pension. I successfully led the effort to keep Terminal 46 as an active (and rapidly growing) container terminal that supports those high-wage jobs when some were promoting a speculative condo development for millionaires. I have been an outspoken critic of port policies that subsidize big cruise ship firms and stevedoring companies with taxpayer funds. I continue to speak out against plans to convert the Port's 73-acre industrial/maritime parcel at Interbay into an upscale office park, forever foreclosing the ability to use this land to handle the growing volume of freight moving to and from Asia.

I have also been the Port's leader on making progress on clean air, and safeguarding Puget Sound. And because I am an outspoken critic of the "go along, get along" culture of the port, waterfront special-interests have recruited an opponent who disagrees with our fundamental values.



# King County Democrats

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In the interests of strengthening the Democratic Party and the ability of the Party to support me or any other candidate, I pledge to uphold high ethical standards. I am responsible for the content of literature, advertising, and statements disseminated by my campaign. If my campaign releases information regarding my opponent(s), I pledge that any such release will allow reasonable time for verification by the voters.

Signature <i>Alec Fisher</i>		Date 3/7/07	
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**Please attach a recent resume.**