

Minutes – June 11, 2009
34th Legislative District Democrats
Candidates Forum

7:02 Forum called to order. Kim Becklund leads flag salute.

Welcome and opening remarks: Chris Porter, King County Committeeman and Fundraising Committee Chair

7:06 Moderator: Tim Nuse, Chair, makes some remarks. Introduces Dow Constantine as the only endorsed candidate for King County Executive and leads people to the back of the room to sign up to volunteer for his campaign.

Seattle Mayor

7:08 Seattle Mayor candidates take the stage. Candidates seated include (R-L): Greg Nickels, James Donaldson, Jan Drago, Joe Mallahan, Michael McGinn, and Norman Sigler. They were given a series of yes/no questions. Then several 1 minute questions. After a few questions from the district regarding labor, transportation, and funding for the White Center food bank, Nuse offers a question from the audience regarding homelessness in the City of Seattle. Nuse goes with another question from the members regarding their experience supporting the LGBT community.

7:54 Seattle Mayors leave the stage. Nuse wishes them all luck. Raffle is done and prizes are given away.

Burien City Council

7:59 Burien City Council candidates take the stage. Attendees include: Jack Block, Jr. and Brian Bennett. Nuse begins with three yes/no questions. Nuse then moves to 1 minute questions. First question is about protecting parks in underserved areas of Burien. The next question regards transportation between Burien and other communities in the area. The next question is regarding funding for law enforcement if Annexation falls through. Nuse then offers a question from the audience regarding attention from the council for an average citizen. The next question is from the district regarding replacing the tax base due to the loss of car dealerships. The next question dealt with the Highline Medical Center. Nuse reminds everyone that these two candidates are not running against one another. Kim Becklund reads a letter from Sue Blazak, as she is unable to attend the forum. Last question for the candidates regarding aging affordable housing.

8:18 Burien City Council candidates leave the stage. The next raffle takes place.

Seattle City Council Positions 2 and 8

8:19 Seattle City Council Positions 2 and 8: Richard Conlin, David Ginsberg, Bobby Forch, Mike O'Brien, Jordan Royer, David Miller, Robert Rosencrantz and Rusty Williams. Nuse begins again with yes/no questions. Nuse begins 1 minute questions in alphabetical order. First question is in regards to the Duwamish River cleanup. Next question is from the audience regarding increasing the number of police officers. Nuse does rapid fire questions from the audience to each of the candidates. They have 10 seconds to answer. First question: Where do you live and what event in that area have you attended? Nuse then does four more yes/no questions to end the session.

8:43 Seattle City Council candidates from Positions 2 and 8 leave the stage. The next raffle takes place.

Seattle City Council Positions 4 and 6

8:47 Seattle City Council candidates for Positions 4 and 6 take the stage. Nuse makes an announcement: King County Democratic Central Committee. They are low on fund and need support, www.kcdc.org, to donate money. Nuse then begins by clarifying the positions running. Nuse runs through a series of yes/no questions. Next moves to the 1 minute questions, first question is in regards to support for the Seattle Street Car system and when it would come to the 34th district. Next question is from the audience regarding supporting decriminalizing addiction. Next question is in regards to youth violence. Last question is 30 seconds for answer. The question asks if low income housing should be in all neighborhoods. Nuse ends with four more yes/no questions.

9:21 The Seattle City Council candidates for Positions 4 and 6 leave the stage. Raffle draw takes place.

Seattle City Attorney

9:25 The Seattle City Attorney candidates take the stage attending are Tom Carr and Pete Holmes. The first 1 minute question is in regards to the building of a new jail. Next question is about whether or not they support the public disclosure act. The next question asks what the candidates believe the chief role of the city attorney. Next question, we have an unusually number of arrests without an underlying charge. Next question asks the candidates to compress three experiences that will help them in the role of city attorney. The last question is in regards to sweeps in homeless communities and their position on those sweeps.

9:39 City Attorney candidates leave the stage. Another raffle ticket is drawn.

Port Commissioners

9:41 The Port Commissions candidates take the stage. The attendees are Rob Holland, David Doud, Tom Albro, Max Vekich and Robert Walker. John Creighton had a family emergency and had to leave, but a statement will be read into the record. Nuse then asks the only yes/no question: Are you a Democrat? The next question is about each candidate what the top issue facing the Port is

in the coming years and they are given 1 minute to answer. The next question is from the audience regarding money discovered by audits and avoiding waste. The next question is in regards to safety, what is their top safety concern.

10:01 Port of Seattle Commissioner candidates leave stage. Kim Becklund reads statement from John Creighton. Candidates forum officially ends. Last raffle ticket is drawn.

Good of the Order

10:04 Kim Becklund thanks everyone that worked on the forum.

10:05 Adjourned