



# King County Democrats 2005 General Candidate Questionnaire

<b>Name</b>	Michael DeBell	<b>Position Sought</b>	Seattle School Board Dist 4
<b>Campaign Address</b>	5203 First Av NW	<b>Campaign Manager</b>	Robert Derry
<b>City</b>	Seattle	<b>Phone Number</b>	898-8335
<b>State</b>	WA	<b>Fax Number</b>	782-4622
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<b>Precinct</b>		<b>Web Page</b>	Michaeldebell.org

<b>Present Occupation Incumbent? How Long?</b>	Family Business	<b>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</b> <i>(Leave Blank - For Committee Use Only)</i>
<b>Employer</b>	Self-employed	
<b>Union Affiliations</b>		

WHAT RATINGS AND ENDORSEMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED?			
Legislative District(s)/Unions	Municipal League	Women's Political Caucus	SeaMEC
Seattle Education Association			

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 a woman's right to choose? (Are you pro-choice?)	X			
6.	Do you support public funding for abortions for poor women?	X			
7.	Do you support school vouchers?		X		
8.	Do you support charter schools?		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?		X	1976-29 years	
<b><i>If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions please explain on a separate sheet of paper.</i></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?**

**No, I have only supported and funded Democratic Party Candidates including serving as a precinct caucus delegate for Jesse Jackson and John Kerry.**

**2. Are you a member of your local Democratic District Party? Have you contributed financially to the County Democratic Party? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?**

**Yes, the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats but I have never been a PCO. I believe I have contributed to the County level party as well as local, state and national.**

**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?**

**My campaign is focused on academic achievement for all students, community support and involvement in schools, better pay for educators, full funding of education by the State and better leadership and cooperation between the School Board and Superintendent. My plan is to meet as many voters and educators in District 4 as possible before the primary and then to expand to a citywide focus. I am attending community meetings, using houseparties and a kick-off to gain donations and endorsements. I plan on doorbelling this summer. I will have no paid staff but have a strong core of volunteers (15) so far. I will win based on my long involvement in education, integrity, experience in budgeting and business, demonstrated commitment to children and my ability to articulate the problems and potential solutions that face the school district. My immediate goal is \$15000 by filing (July 25). I have raised \$4000 to date. Further goals depend on having an opponent.**

**4. What is the single most pressing issue facing your jurisdiction, and what actions would you take if elected?**

**The most pressing issue short run is the budget deficit and long run is the achievement gap. I would look for new revenue from the State and possible new City dedicated tax streams but would also work with my fellow Board members to construct a set of expenditure cuts to avoid brinkmanship or loss of confidence in SPS. I would look at cuts in transportation costs by curtailing some assignment options, reducing support staff and mid-level administrators. All spending outside the classroom should be examined. The achievement gap has proven stubborn to overcome but successful programs are in place in some schools. They have used individual learning plans, parent and community involvement, rigorous and culturally relevant curriculum and strong site leadership. Homeless children, recent immigrants and children of color have all achieved academic success in some programs, the key is early intervention, high expectations and consistency.**

**5. Non Partisan Races A. If you do not win the primary, is there any reason you could not support your primary opponent(s) in the general election?**

**If their positions are coherent, yes I would support them.**

**Partisan Races B. If you do not receive the nomination, is there any reason you could not support your Democratic opponent in the general election? Please explain.**

**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?**

**The absence of progressive taxation at the State level is, probably, the single greatest impediment to full funding of education and the reason Washington is 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation in education spending. Increasing sales taxes or special consumption taxes on coffee drinks or soda carry an undue burden on working people. Reinstating the State Estate tax was an excellent start. Other proposals short of a State income tax should be enacted as they avoid the difficulties associated with a constitutional amendment. A State Income tax is the best long term solution for stabilizing the present cyclical revenue stream and redistributing taxation to those most able to pay.**

**7. What is the Davis-Bacon Act? Do you support it?**

**The Davis-Bacon Act codified prevailing wage laws for all government contracts in 1932. It is a vital law to protect the rights of wage earners while still following lowest bid competitive practice. I support it wholeheartedly and would want the SPS to follow it strictly in all contract work.**



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**8. Do you support King County Initiative I-22? Explain your position.**

I generally support popular votes on important issues because the people should be ultimately sovereign. I also think that County government is inherently partisan and should be elected with the greater exposure and airing of issues that political parties bring. I don't like the origins of this initiative and strongly support the Critical Areas Regulations. I will vote against it but am not opposed to a vote taking place on whether or not County Council should be partisan.

**9. 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, I believe the Democratic Party Caucus should have sole right to organize itself in order to be as effective as possible in pursuing the party platform.

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

I would favor the government becoming a single payer and organizer of health care in a system similar to Canada's. WE have the most expensive, least efficient and effective health care in the world and some 50 million people with no health insurance at all. For profit health care is immoral and leads to ridiculous outcomes of unnecessary or luxury medical treatment for some and little or no preventative care for most.

**11. What is your position on civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and trans gendered people? What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?**

I support full civil rights for all sexual orientations. I support the right of same sex couples to marry with the same rights as heterosexual couples.

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

Education is the key to economic progress for people in poverty. Programs that empower and excite people to their potential are most effective such as career academies, well run vocational and technical training programs and incentive scholarships.

**13. 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)?**

I have no opponent so it is difficult to know how I will distinguish myself. I am very well educated, and very familiar with the SPS, have a record of raising money and being an advocate for schools, have been a successful decision maker running a business for 20 years and have worked with a variety of people in sometimes contentious arenas.

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

I am married to Marie DeBell who is President of the Seattle School Nurses Association. We have three children all in Seattle Public Schools. Our family has been active in anti-war, social justice and environmental issues for many years. I think Seattle is a wonderful city and an ideal place to raise a family. Our strong sense of community and compassion here keeps me hopeful about our nation and has drawn me to run for public office to serve the Seattle's children.

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  
Michael DeBell

Date  
6/17/2005



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Please attach a recent resume.