

**FRIENDS OF THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – SEPTEMBER 2009**

**In 200 words or less, please answer the following question:**

***Question: Given a shortfall in city revenues and additional budget cuts necessary for 2010, how important is it to a) maintain hours at current levels, b) improve funding levels for collections, which includes public computers and c) to restore the capital budget for building maintenance?***

Libraries are among the basic services of the City, along with public safety, parks, and utilities. That is why I have consistently supported adding hours and funds for library materials. I personally usually have a dozen books on request and half-a-dozen checked out at any given time. The continued increase in library use that has accompanied the opening of our new and renovated libraries testifies to the high expectations that Seattle voters have of our city government and library system.

By the time we finish the 2009-2010 budget, we will have cut some \$100 million as a result of the recession. I expect that there will be some opportunities to expand services to a limited extent in the 2011-2012 biennium. In the last recession, I initiated a modest increase in our utility taxes (1.5%) to generate funds for critical programs, including street maintenance and restoration of the bookmobile. The increased usage of our libraries is a demand that we must respond to, and I will support maintaining hours and the collections budget in the 2010 process. Restoring the capital budget and expanding collections is likely to have to wait until 2011 or 2012, but must happen when we can.