

WHERE THE CANDIDATES **STAND**











Joshua **Schaer**

Before returning ballots to meet the Nov. 8 deadline, review where Issaquah City Council and Issaquah School Board candidates stand on important issues.

Council candidates Joshua Schaer and TJ Filley answered questions about numerous issues facing Issaquah in the years ahead. (Answers had to be 25 words or less.) Schaer is seeking another term on the seven-member council. Filley is focusing on transportation issues in the campaign.

Read more questions for the candidates, and their responses, at www.issaquahpress.com/category/election.

City Council **Position 4**

<p>I support holding committee and budget meetings in more convenient locations. I also visit neighborhoods to directly receive feedback from residents about important issues.</p>	<p>I've disagreed with decisions that aren't right for Issaquah — for example, my colleagues shouldn't have wasted resources designing roundabouts that data revealed as currently unnecessary.</p>	<p>We need to reduce our rising benefit costs — they are unsustainable. We should also reduce our reliance on consultants for projects city staff can handle.</p>	<p>The council hasn't raised property taxes during my term. We'll assess the possible economic benefits or harms when determining whether to continue this yearly trend.</p>	<p>A multimodal crossing over Interstate 90 would relieve congestion, provide a future rail hub and enhance connectivity. Discussions must start before redevelopment increases the difficulty.</p>	<p>Protecting our greenery and waterways. I'm disappointed by recent highlands clear-cutting, and dissolving our Stream Team. We must uphold being a Tree City USA.</p>	<p>We should determine if assumption — and making it free again — is financially realistic. We must also improve ways to reach it by walking or biking.</p>	<p>Although I joined Issaquah through annexation, I don't believe Klahanie is a sound long-term investment, given the cost of service expansion compared to tax-base benefits.</p>
 <p>HOW WILL YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CONSTITUENTS TO HELP ENGAGE THEM IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS?</p>	 <p>WHAT COUNCIL DECISION MADE IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS WOULD YOU CHANGE BECAUSE YOU DISAGREE WITH IT? WHY?</p>	 <p>NAME AT LEAST TWO AREAS YOU COULD SUPPORT CUTTING FROM THE CITY BUDGET, IF NEEDED.</p>	 <p>SHOULD THE COUNCIL RAISE THE PROPERTY TAX RATE TO INCREASE REVENUE OR ALLOW IT TO REMAIN AS-IS UNTIL THE ECONOMY IMPROVES? WHY?</p>	 <p>WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST URGENT INFRASTRUCTURE NEED FACING ISSAQUAH?</p>	 <p>CITY LEADERS REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE LAST YEAR BY PRESERVING PARK POINTE. WHAT, SPECIFICALLY, SHOULD BE THE CITY'S NEXT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES?</p>	 <p>WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE CITY PLAY IN CREATING A VIABLE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF LAKE SAMMAMISH STATE PARK?</p>	 <p>SHOULD THE CITY PURSUE ANNEXING KLAHANIE AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS? WHY?</p>
<p>I plan on creating a webpage in a blog format for constituents to voice opinions on current issues.</p>	<p>The bicycle and pedestrian overpass would not have been approved until it was determined to be one of the top 10 priority projects in transportation.</p>	<p>I would implement zero-based budgeting, and performance budgeting methodologies to try to ensure that the taxpayer resources are being maximized.</p>	<p>Property taxes should not be raised. Families are struggling trying to make house payments on property where they owe more than the property is worth.</p>	<p>Congestion relief, especially south of Interstate 90. Front Street is a joke at rush hour, and Newport Way is in dire need of improvements.</p>	<p>We need Issaquah to be good stewards of taxpayer money, ensuring projects done are high-priority and accomplish cost-effective goals, and our tax base is stable.</p>	<p>Possibilities and Issaquah potentially acquiring it include discussions of limited commercial licenses to offset maintenance, to a development with a public marina and commercial development.</p>	<p>I have not researched this yet and as such I have no opinion.</p>



TJ **Filley**