



Seattle Works
informs, connects
and inspires people
in their 20s and 30s
to take action in our
community.

**Volunteer. Lead. Influence. Invest.
Do Something.**

www.seattleworks.org

A special thank you to the volunteer team who made this guide possible by generating fearless, on-the-money questions and reaching out to the candidates.

- Patrick Bell
- Jamie Emerson
- Michael Pearce
- Brian Reiffe
- Chris Rule
- Jay See
- Michael Taylor-Judd
- Krystal Wood
- Kendee Yamaguchi
- Intern, Sean McCotter

City of Seattle Attorney

Candidates: Tom Carr, Pete Holmes

What the law says: The Law Department shall consist of a City Attorney who shall appoint the Assistant City Attorneys and City Prosecutors, who may be removed at will. The City Attorney shall be an attorney of the Supreme Court of the State, and have been in the practice of his or her profession in The City of Seattle for at least four years next prior to his or her election. He or she shall have full supervisory control of all the litigation of the City, or in which the City or any of its departments are interested. The City Attorney shall appoint under civil service rules, supervise and control all other officers and employees in the Law Department.

TRANSLATION: The Seattle City Attorney is the head of the City Law Department. The law department prosecutes those who violate city criminal laws and provides legal advice and representation to city departments and officials. Essentially the Seattle City Attorney oversees all Seattle City legal cases and has the right to appoint assistant city attorneys as well as city prosecutors. The City Attorney must have been in practice for at least four years prior to the election.

1. The race for the City Attorney's office does not generate as much attention as some of the other races on the ballot. What should Seattleites in their 20s and 30s know about this position and why should they pay attention to this race?

Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.

Tom Carr

Seattle is one of the most popular cities for young adults in the country. This race is worthy of their attention because the City Attorney's Office has the potential to be a real leader in making our beloved city safer and more accessible for young adults. By bringing all parties to the table to work out lasting solutions, we can maintain safe and vibrant music and nightlife communities for our city's residents, without using strong-armed and politically motivated law-enforcement stings like "Operation Sobering Thought". By working with our communities to prevent crime we can ensure that all residents can live free of the fear of being victimized by violent or property crime, which disproportionately impact our city's younger population. The City Attorney needs to be a leader in these and many other issues that will make our city safer, while ensuring that the City Attorney's Office represents their needs and interests.

Pete Holmes

2. Part of the City Attorney's mission is to assist other city officials in advancing their goals, making the office you seek a very collaborative one. What in your experience or background makes you most qualified to work with the other departments and officials?

Representing and advising large corporations, especially during times of economic crisis, my calm and level-headed approach to problem-solving was greatly valued by my clients. And no one knows better than me how it feels to be abandoned by our City Attorney, when I was simply trying to do my job in good faith as chair and lawyer member of the civilian board that oversees the Seattle Police Department (the OPA Review Board). Team work, not individual grandstanding, is the best way to achieve lasting solutions to Seattle's problems, and Seattle officials will the Law Department to be a truly service-oriented organization under my tenure--professional, civil, and providing leadership in problem-solving. Consequently, officials will receive quiet counsel from me on important matters such as compliance with the Open Meetings Act, rather than receiving such advice through newspaper headlines.

Pete Holmes

3. What is the highest law enforcement priority people in their 20s and 30s are concerned about?

As stated above, violent and property crimes tend to hit our younger populations hardest. Gang activity needs to be addressed before it breaks out in violence, and property crimes like burglary and car theft must be answered with aggressive prosecution. All this cannot be done if the City Attorney's Office is expending resources by pursuing incarceration for low-level, non-violent crimes. We need to find innovative, community-based alternatives to incarceration in order to save resources to prevent violent crime and pursue property crime to the fullest extent of the law.

Pete Holmes

4. What is the highest law enforcement priority people in their 20s and 30s are concerned about?

There are many bizarre and interesting ordinances on the books in Seattle. Here is just one: Ordinance Number: 4581 An ordinance prohibiting any person from wearing hats and head coverings in the theatre or place of amusement during the performance and providing a penalty for violation thereof. Date passed: August 2, 1898. It is still on the books.

Pete Holmes

5. 5. Which TV lawyer have you most enjoyed watching and why? (Matlock, Jack McCoy, Dan Fielding, Ally McBeal, Lionel Hutz, Denny Crane, Perry Mason)

Eli Stone

Pete Holmes

6. How would you use social media to engage and inform your constituents?

This is a great question. I plan to bring openness and transparency to the city attorney's office and encourage communication between my office and citizens. The City Attorney's office will once again start publishing legal opinions online, a practice discontinued when the current city attorney took office. We will tweet breaking news and significant decisions, and will consider using Facebook or something similar to encourage a two-way conversation about issues and concerns. I will also implement online, one-stop access to all pending civil litigation by and against the City of Seattle. Finally, I will work to protect the citizens' right to know by ending excessive reliance on attorney-client privilege in public disclosure requests, and intend to make such disclosures available on line to the public generally.

Pete Holmes

7. How would you use your office to promote volunteerism and community service?

First, by modeling the very behavior we want to promote. A fresh spirit of openness and collaboration for problem-solving is needed in the office to encourage more creative solutions across city government--especially as we face an ever-deepening budget crisis. I will personally reach out to schools and community organizations, too, fostering greater understanding of the City Attorney's Office as both prosecutor and chief legal counsel --encouraging citizens to reach out for assistance at community problem-solving.

Pete Holmes

8. If a friend came to visit you from out of town, where would you go to show your friend around King County?

Pike Place Market, for starters, followed by a trip on the Monorail to Seattle Center. We'll spend the afternoon at SAM and the Olympic Sculpture Park, and then hit some of Seattle's best nightclubs for dinner and entertainment.

Pete Holmes

10. Why are you motivated to run for office?

After nearly 18 years in private practice, I left my law partnership at the end of 2001 to devote my legal skills to public service. After completing over three full terms on Seattle's first oversight board for the Seattle Police Department late last year, I realized that my work wasn't complete because Seattle's problems are largely top-down. I am running to bring a true servant-leader to the City Attorney's office, one who will represent all the people of Seattle; who will protect the people's right to know what their government is doing; who will make it a top priority to avoid construction of a new jail, while keeping us safe; one who will manage Seattle's civil litigation with better judgment and professionalism; one who will help Seattle weather the ongoing recession.

Pete Holmes

Seattle Works

Volunteer. Lead. Influence.
Invest. **Do Something.**

www.seattleworks.org

www.twitter.com/seattleworks

[Facebook— be a fan](#)