



34th District Democrats State Representative Appointment Questionnaire

Name	Greg Doss	Phone Number	206-755-6385
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Precinct	SEA 34-1484 Acting PCO	Web Page	Gregdoss.com

Present Occupation How Long?	Strategic Advisor to Mayor Nickels
Current Employer	City of Seattle
Union Affiliations	None Presently

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
(YOU MAY USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER FOR ANSWERS)**

1. What are the main messages of your campaign?

- Transportation may be the single most important issue that we face in the 2008 Legislative Session. I have extensive transportation finance experience and will be immediately productive in Olympia. I will ensure that the State participates financially in our Roads & Transit projects while respecting our autonomy to decide how to handle projects like the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement.
- We must make housing affordable and accessible for everyone. The State must play a more active role in supporting the Seattle and King County Housing Authorities. We must increase funding for low-income housing, homebuyer programs, and relocation assistance to those forced out because of condo conversions. I will write legislation that provides employer incentives to create homebuyer assistance programs for middle-income wage earners.
- We must focus our K-12 system on early learning and youth at risk. Science tells us that reducing K-3 class sizes is the single biggest factor in affecting a child's ability to learn. We also know that children who will eventually drop out start showing signs in middle school. We must reach these individuals before they fall through the cracks and turn to gang violence or become part of an economically disadvantaged class of adults.

2. What are the three most pressing issues facing our District? How do you propose to address these issues in Olympia?

1) Transportation; 2) Affordable Housing; and 3) Youth Development & Education are the most pressing issues facing our District

1) Should the Roads & Transit measure fail, I will work to make sure that the House and Senate leadership give our region the tools it needs to create a world class, multi-modal transportation system. Whether this is new taxing authority for a county-based roads & transit system, or the authority for an independent Sound Transit measure, I will make sure that we don't waste time arguing about governance or further delaying transportation improvements. I will make sure the State doesn't re-program the contributions it was planning to make to the Roads & Transit projects.



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2) The State Housing Trust Fund is a vital resource for both City and County housing programs. It provides funding for homeless and low-income housing as well as homebuyer and rental assistance programs. It also provides assistance for community building projects such as the 35th Avenue SW & Morgan Building - the new home for the West Seattle Food Bank. In its last disbursement from the \$130 million fund, King County received only 23% of the overall distribution. I will make sure that our region receives its fair share of housing funding by increasing the cap for King County's distribution.

3) We will need to shrink K-3 class sizes while simultaneously performing triage with older students in danger of failing the WASL and falling through the cracks. We will also need to expand and find funding for newly created drop-out prevention programs. I understand complex funding formulas and service delivery models. I will help to focus our education system and make sure that we fund those programs that will make a difference in the lives of our youth.

3. How have you been involved in the local 34th District Democratic Party? Have you contributed financially to any Democratic Organization or Candidate? Have you been a Precinct Committee Officer? When/Where?

I have served two years as your Treasurer. In addition to serving on the Executive Board, I maintain our financial records, regularly report to the Public Disclosure Commission, and prepare our budgets with our Finance Chair Walter Sive. I am a Precinct Committee Officer, and have walked my precinct before each of the last two major elections. I contributed financially and volunteered my time to our local State and County representatives.

4. Have you ever supported or given money to a candidate from another party in a partisan race? If so, to whom and why?

No



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5. What is your involvement in the communities that make up the 34th District that shows you are the best candidate for appointment as our State Representative? What would you like us to know about your past experiences and achievements that make you the best candidate for appointment? What distinguishes you from your opponents?

As a Strategic Advisor to Mayor Nickels, I participate in Seattle's public safety community and outreach efforts and regularly work on special projects including the N. Highline annexation issue. I helped shape the annexation discussion as the City's lead in developing the fiscal estimates for providing service to the citizens of N. Highline.

As a 34th E-Board member, I participate in community outreach projects and represent our organization with other organizations.

Experience and achievements that qualify me for the State Representative position:

State Legislative Experience:

- 7 years experience working for the Washington State Legislature
- Staff Analyst / Policy Advisor to the Senate Transportation Committee
- Author of Transportation Efficient Act
- Author of Transportation Accountability Act, which created an Audit Board to hold agencies accountable for projects.
- Authored dozens of bills and contributed to state-wide referendum
- Responsible for \$1 Billion of authority in the State Transportation Budget

Local Experience:

- 4 years as a Strategic Advisor to Mayor Nickels on public safety issues
- Oversee \$200 million Police Department Budget for the Executive Branch
- Helped develop a proposal to add 105 new police officers to Seattle's streets
- Developed a plan to convert SPD's non-pursuit fleet to hybrid vehicles. Currently working on SPD's Parking Enforcement fleet.



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6. What are your views on spending taxpayer money and fiscal responsibility?

As a financial analyst for the City of Seattle and formerly to the Washington State Senate, I understand the responsibility that comes with spending taxpayer money. Taxes are an investment in our people and our communities. It is paramount that civic leaders ensure taxpayer money is used wisely and in a way that creates real results.

In my career I have worked on several projects that provide additional government transparency and ensure program or project accountability. I worked with State Senators to develop the Transportation Accountability Act, which created an Audit Board to hold agencies accountable for projects. The Audit Board was a mix of public and private representatives who commissioned performance audits of transportation programs and management audits of transportation projects.

I am against regressive taxation or any system that requires the poor or middle class to pay a disproportionately higher share of their income.

7. How would you balance continued growth with the quality of the environment? What is your strategy for accomplishing this balance as a State Representative?

In recent years residents of the 34th watched as urban development has made our neighborhoods more and more dense. This development presents us with an opportunity to make sure that we build Green by improving the infrastructure that supports us all. I will work to make sure that the State encourages redevelopment with natural systems that lessen the impact on our environment.

The new law establishing the Puget Sound Partnership and creation of a 2020 Action Agenda presents challenges and opportunities for local jurisdictions and communities to work together to accelerate the restoration of the Puget Sound ecosystem, thereby ensuring a better quality of life, economy and environment for people and wildlife. I will work to make sure that the State makes it easier for local communities to implement stronger storm-water management practices and habitat restoration and protection programs. I will also work to strengthen state law on aquatic reserves so that environmentally destructive projects like the gravel mining on Maury Island aren't even possible.

Growth has already had an impact on the fish and wildlife that live in our rivers, streams and Puget Sound. I will make sure that the State and local governments are empowered to continue working on habitat restoration projects that support the Salmon Recovery Plan.



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8. What role should State government play in providing adequate healthcare to all residents of the State of Washington?

The State must continue expanding Washington's Basic Health Plan for vulnerable populations. It must also continue working toward the Governor's and Legislature's goal of ensuring that each child in Washington State has health care by 2010.

I support last year's groundbreaking legislation that allows small businesses, employees and the government to pool resources and make health care available and affordable. In 2008, the governing agency must report on the risks and benefits of incorporating individuals and small group markets. This program must be expanded to businesses of all sizes.

Finally, I think it is critical to continue investigating the single-payer system models. Ultimately, this is the only way to control skyrocketing health care costs and eliminate the perverse incentives created under our current insurance-based model. However, it is important that we move carefully and in a way that will not jeopardize the quality of care.

9. What is your position on equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights?

I strongly support equal rights for same-sex couples when it comes to benefits, civil unions, marriage and parental rights.

10. What creative solutions within State government can you offer to address the problems of the economically disadvantaged? How do you propose to create quality family-wage jobs within our District?

Government has a long history of stimulating the economy through public works projects. When State or local governments commission community development, low-income or homeless housing projects, our workforce benefits with more family-wage and union jobs. Over twenty thousand people are moving each year to the Puget Sound area. As property values continue to increase, local governments must be encouraged to re-invest additional real estate tax revenue in housing and community development projects. I strongly support incentive-based programs that increase housing starts.

I believe that education is our best way to prevent our citizens from becoming economically disadvantaged. Students who drop out of high school are at a significant disadvantage in today's workforce. I will work to make sure that the State's new dropout prevention program is fully funded and addresses all the obstacles to graduation.

The State should increase its participation with local workforce development councils and proven programs like the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI). Our area has been nationally recognized for homeless employment programs such as FareStart and the Barista program. Programs like WorkSource Seattle-King County provide valuable work-based learning and pre-apprenticeship mentoring. We must make sure that these programs continue to operate in the face of Federal funding cuts.

11. Given the issues that arose in the 2004 Washington State Gubernatorial election, what changes would you seek in statewide voting and/or election processes? What changes would you make, if any, to State laws regarding restoration of voting rights for ex-felons?

I believe that paper ballots are essential to conducting verifiable elections. I support a statewide shift to an all mail ballot and will work in Olympia to implement this policy. I will support the restoration of voting rights to ex-felons as a critical part of the rehabilitation process.



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12. What have you done to support workers' rights to collectively bargain? Would you co-sponsor a card check neutrality bill as State Representative?

While I have not been a union member, I strongly support collective bargaining and recognize its importance in ensuring that both public and private employees receive fair compensation for their services. I have worked on City legislation negotiated by the Seattle Police Officers Guild and respect the role the organization plays in both compensation and working conditions for officers. I support the Employee Free Choice Act, card check procedures and neutrality agreements. I would sign on to a bill that supported these agreements.

13. What is your position on the Alaskan Way Viaduct? What are the fundamental transportation challenges facing the 34th District and what solutions would you propose or support in Olympia?

First, we must immediately take down the aging structure that now poses an eminent threat to our safety. An earthquake would create mass casualties in a way that our region has never seen.

The recent Seattle vote makes it unlikely that the viaduct will be replaced with either a tunnel or elevated structure. Our City, County and State leaders have already begun the planning process for a surface-transit option. We need to support their efforts while emphasizing that capacity and access are key for residents of the 34th.

I believe that the viaduct replacement is a regional problem. Our elected leaders seem to agree that the answer involves some mix of surface streets, Bus Rapid Transit and rail transit; but there is currently no clear plan to move forward. The City of Seattle has funded a feasibility study for a streetcar line over the West Seattle Bridge. The Roads & Transit measure funds a study of light rail connecting West Seattle and Burien. I will work with our leadership to accelerate these efforts and ensure that the 34th is connected with fast-moving rail and bus transit on dedicated right-of-way.

The Roads & Transit measure provides funding for an additional ramp off the W. Seattle bridge as well as access and capacity improvements to Spokane Street and 1st, 4th and 6th streets. If the measure does not go forward, I will make it my first priority to ensure that the projects do.

I strongly support the Transit, HOV lane and freight capacity improvements that will be made by Prop 1. If it fails, I will make it my first priority to ensure that our region is given the tools it needs to get these projects built as quickly as possible.

14. Do you have any ideas on how State government can advance civil rights and expand opportunity for all people regardless of race, gender, age, or religious views?

To best advance civil rights and expand opportunity for all residents of the 34th, the State must concentrate its efforts on outreach to our non-native and non-English speaking populations.

Over 25% of the N. Highline residents are foreign born and there are over 40 different languages spoken in our District. It is imperative that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) citizens understand their rights when it comes to discrimination in employment, fair housing or public accommodations.

State support to local Community Building Organizations with LEP advocates is essential and should be expanded. I will work with the Washington Human Rights Commission as well as local commissions to identify opportunities to expand outreach to non-English speaking populations.



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15. By most measures, our children are way behind other industrialized countries in academic test scores and generating high-quality graduates that are ready for the workforce. How should the legislature best address this?

Developing and maintaining top quality public schools must be the State's highest priority. We have many challenges that lie ahead. In December a joint Legislative task force will issue a report that recommends sweeping changes in the way we finance and deliver both K-12 and higher education services.

We will need to focus funding on the most effective instructional strategies and service delivery models. This will mean sizing our classes based on grade level to provide more emphasis on early learning. We will also need to fund more professional development for teachers, and examine extended school year options.

This will cost our State billions of dollars and require that our representatives understand complex funding formulas and service delivery models. My background and skills as an analyst are especially well suited for this task.

Higher education plays a crucial role in workforce development. It is paramount that we control tuition at State colleges and universities, and fully fund the Washington College Bound Scholarship Program.

16. Where do you stand on public financing of campaigns in Washington?

We must move closer toward publicly funded campaigns. To start, we must remove the language in our current state law that prohibits cities and other local jurisdictions from using public funds for local election campaigns.

17. What specific proposals do you have to improve our criminal justice system in this State? What can the legislature do to address domestic violence? More generally, what policy initiatives would you support to reduce gun violence?

The State should provide more grant funding for multi-lingual advocates that can educate the Limited English Proficiency community on the rights and the resources available to assist victims of domestic violence. The State should provide training to local police agencies on how to remove guns from a home where a domestic violence incident has occurred.

Washington has among the weakest gun laws in the country, and does very little to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Over 40 gun shows each year provide felons and individuals with mental illnesses the opportunity to purchase weapons without a background check.

In 2005, the City of Seattle suffered over 560 violent crimes (murders, robberies and aggravated assaults) committed with firearms. In 2006, the trend for aggravated assaults with a firearm increased by nearly 25%. This violence is not isolated to Seattle; it is increasing in most parts of the 34th. We must ban assault weapons and close the gun show loophole now. A Democratic majority in the House is meaningless unless we create laws that reflect Democratic values, like common sense gun laws.

Signature		Date	
Digital – <i>Greg Doss</i>		October 22, 2007	

Please attach your resume.