



# 34th District Democrats State Representative Appointment Questionnaire

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Precinct	34-0025	Web Page	<a href="#">See 34<sup>th</sup> district web page</a>

Present Occupation How Long?	Massage Practitioner – 13 years
Current Employer	Self – Employed
Union Affiliations	Former Grocery retail clerk’s union member 1990

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

**1. What are the main messages of your campaign?**

I would be honored to serve you as your 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District State Representative. I am a hard worker (24/7) who is responsive and knows our district’s issues – Education, Health Care, The Environment, Transportation, Family Wage Jobs, Affordable Housing, Annexation, Fair Taxation, Campaign Finance Reform and Equal Rights for all people. I am always available to you in person or by phone (206) 242-8378. I am your advocate for our children, working families, the environment and the disadvantaged.

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

1. **Education** – As we all know, early childhood learning is the foundation for success. As a former teacher I know all too well the need for early childhood learning, better pay for teachers, smaller class sizes, improved nutrition programs, and increased accountability for students and schools. By investing in education, mentoring and workforce training, we can save taxpayer dollars, improve our communities, keep people out of prison and prepare all of our citizens for good jobs. A world class education system will offer every Washingtonian the opportunity to achieve personal, professional and economic success. Along with prioritizing education and supporting the funding it deserves, it’s imperative to have in place an accountability system to ensure we use our tax dollars wisely and reach success.
2. **Health Care** – There is a health care crisis in this state. More than 12% of Washingtonians are uninsured. The state has made great strides in ensuring that all children have access to health care. I will continue supporting this fight. Once established, I will work to expand this program to ensure access to health care for all. Creating a statewide single payer system of health care will shift the system from profit to people. Productive and vibrant communities depend on healthy people, and Washington families will stay healthy with better access to high-quality, affordable health care.
3. **Environment** – I’ve been an environmental activist all my life. As your Representative, I will continue supporting Governor Gregoire’s Puget Sound Partnership and the efforts to clean-up and protect the Puget Sound, especially from the threat of increased mining on Maury Island. I believe that stewardship of natural resources based on best available science and partnering with private landowners through incentive and regulatory programs are critical in protecting our fragile environment. The same care and attention needs to be given to the many other ecosystems in our state – forests, wilderness areas and fresh water and marine shorelines, including Elliot Bay and the Duwamish River. I will also introduce legislation similar to the Kyoto Protocol to reduce the state’s emissions of greenhouse gases and encourage regional alliances. The steps we take to reduce our impact on the climate are also opportunities to grow the economy. Jobs from cleaner energy, smarter use of natural resources and adoption of advanced technologies provide family wages. We can also create more family wage jobs as we grow our renewable fuel industry, becoming more sustainable, efficient, and greener at the same time.



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

I have been involved in our 34<sup>th</sup> District paying membership dues and attending meetings. I have contributed financially and helped with campaigns - the State Democratic Party, 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats, and many democratic elected officials at the federal, state and county level including Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Jim McDermott, Adam Smith, Dow Constantine, Christine Gregoire, Erik Poulsen, Eileen Cody, Joe McDermott, Dave Upthegrove, Shay Schual-Berke, Karen Keiser, Zack Hudgins. Bob Hasegawa, and Margarita Prentice. I have regularly donated services and funds to the 34<sup>th</sup> District Garden Party Auction. I have been a 34<sup>th</sup> District PCO in 2004.

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

5. What is your involvement in the communities that make up the 34<sup>th</sup> 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?

### Involvement in Our Communities -

We are comprised of a diverse collection of communities -

- West Seattle - A re-vitalized innovative community of Seattle, the largest city in Washington State. I know the community personally - my State Senator, State Representative and County Councilmember, my Dentist, plant nursery, 34<sup>th</sup> district meetings, West Seattle Democratic Women, Lincoln Park and the salt water pool, Schmitz Park - old growth trees and Audubon visits, Fauntleroy Ferry. West Seattle folks and resources are an integral part of my life.

- Vashon & Maury Island - Rural unincorporated King County.

As a Board Member for the King County Library System, I've gotten to know the community through the expansion of the Vashon Library. I strongly support protecting the islands and the Puget Sound from the threat of increased mining. Vashon and Maury Island are making great strides in making themselves more energy independent with green alternatives such as solar and wind power.

- North Highline - is one of the most diverse communities in our district and the state.

I support the WhiteCenter Community Development Association, the annual parade, and depend on my favorite Hardware store to help keep my home in good shape. The community experienced a major loss with the death of Deputy Steve Cox while on duty. Steve is an irreplaceable officer who I had the privilege of working with as an elected and as a citizen.

- Burien - An older community recently incorporated and undergoing revitalization.

A Burien resident for 18 years, I am currently serving my 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Burien City Councilmember. It has been my pleasure to serve as an elected official. I have served the south end of our district with fortitude and look forward to working hard for all of us in the 34<sup>th</sup>.

### Past Experiences and Achievements -

Former Chemistry and Biology High School Teacher, UW Forestry Research Assistant, Outstanding Citizen Environmental Leader Award, former Grocery retail clerk's union member, self-employed Massage Practitioner, Chair, Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership, Burien City Councilmember.

### A Distinguished Candidate -

A combination of science, teaching and health care backgrounds and experience as a hard working elected official fighting for our children, working families, the environment and the disadvantaged distinguishes me from my fellow candidates.



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

I am a fiscal conservative and believe in spending taxpayer money very carefully. My top priority for spending money is investing in education for our children. We all know that early childhood learning is the foundation for success. I was instrumental in increasing funding allowing for an innovative program that teaches low-income parents how to better prepare their children for Kindergarten. Our state has one of the most regressive taxation systems in the country. Poor families pay approximately 5 times as much of their earnings in taxes as the wealthy. Middle-income families pay about 3 times as much. Our tax system needs to be based on people's ability to pay, which means that the share of income paid in taxes should rise as income grows, not fall as it currently does. A method that I support that would achieve better equity is state income tax. I also support the current system of checks and balances with regular and thorough audits.

**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?**

I would balance continued sustainable growth with quality of the environment through incentives and regulation.

- Support and encourage density to protect open space, environmentally sensitive areas, parks, rural areas and habitat. One example is through a program of transferring residential density credits.

Another is the Critical Areas Ordinance.

- Encourage increased low impact developments, an innovative storm water management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature.

- Maintain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System for state building projects.

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

The role of State government is to ensure that all people have access to quality healthcare. At this time there needs to be a transition from private health care to a single payer system to ensure that all people have access to quality affordable health care.

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

It's imperative that same-sex couples have equal rights regarding benefits, marriage and parental rights. I support and will advocate for marriage equality rather than civil unions. In 2007, the state made progress in passing a law with regard to civil unions for same-sex couples providing assurance for some civil rights. With marriage as an integral part of our legal system, I will continue to fight until we reach marriage equality for all.

**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?**

When I hear the phrase, economically disadvantaged, I think of my neighborhood. What I see in my neighborhood is a need for education, access to education and the creation of family wage jobs. The average income in my neighborhood is approximately \$10,000 – 30,000 per year. One of the most important solutions is a two-prong attack that includes education and family-wage jobs. The state has an important role to play in both of those. The children need quality education and the parents need education and a family-wage job.

An example of the creation of family-wage jobs is a law that was recently passed mandating apprenticeship set-aside programs for public school construction projects. This year I supported a similar policy for public works projects in the 34<sup>th</sup> District. Currently it is more regulatory than incentive based and I would like to see more of a balance. The state plays a critical role in supporting new technologies, providing family-wage jobs for today and our future.



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**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?**

**“In the 2004 Washington state elections, more felons tended to vote for Democrats and more dead people tended to vote for Republicans.” The elections are run by the Secretary of State and administered by the counties. As the counties re-examine the voting process, I believe we are moving in the right direction and continuing to improve. It is imperative that we maintain a printed voting record.**

**I support legislation that would restore an ex-felon’s right to vote once he or she has completed his or her prison term and community supervision. The intention would be to re-instate the individual’s right to vote regardless of the individual’s economic status. Restoring rights and responsibilities of citizenship is an important part of rehabilitation.**

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

**Collective bargaining is absolutely imperative. It is through collective bargaining that workers (law enforcement, fire fighters, teachers and construction workers, etc.) are assured fair compensation for the quality services they provide. I have been a member of the grocery retail clerk’s union. Whenever I can, I personally “shop” union and as a policy maker I supported a policy mandating an apprenticeship set-aside program for public works projects in the 34<sup>th</sup> district.**

**Yes, it would be my honor to co-sponsor an effective card check neutrality bill as your State Representative.**

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

**Transportation is one of the 34<sup>th</sup> District’s toughest challenges. Due to geography and the reliance on the West Seattle Bridge, the Ambaum Corridor, the South Park Bridge, and the Alaskan Way Viaduct we face unique challenges. The Alaskan Way Viaduct needs immediate attention. It will take the State and the City of Seattle working together to find a solution that is feasible for everyone. I support fixing the existing structure as the most expedient solution with the least amount of disruption. Plan B would be the surface street option but the I-5 choke points need to be addressed first. Due to the instability of the current structure, I believe it’s imperative to find a timely and cost effective solution that works for as many parties as possible.**

**My main transportation goal of efficiently moving people and goods consists of two parts. The first would be to invest in our infrastructure to maintain roads at current or improved standards. The second would be to support the creation of a transit system that gets a rider to his or her destination as fast as if he or she drove a Single Occupancy Vehicle. Rewarding the transit rider with saving time and money along with an efficient multi-modal system will benefit the person, our community, the economy and the environment.**

**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?**

**It’s imperative that the State government continues to advance civil rights and expand opportunities for all people, especially the disadvantaged! In 2007 Governor Gregoire passed a bill creating a domestic partnership registry providing enhanced rights. This is the first step towards marriage equality for all people. The state provides incentives for minority and women owned businesses through the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. It’s a fact of life that there is still racism, sexism and homophobia. There is no substitute for vigilance. What’s needed is to expand opportunities and advance civil rights for all.**



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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?

As a former chemistry teacher, I know all too well the challenges of education. Education makes up almost half of our state's budget. Generating high-quality graduates is a complex problem. Solutions include better paid teachers, smaller class sizes, better resources, improved nutritional programs, early childhood learning and English as a Second Language. There are over 60 different languages currently spoken in our public school system. I support the use of a diagnostic tool for measuring achievement. There are some positives about the current program, the Washington State Assessment of Student Learning Program. It serves as a measure of achievement BUT it is also creating an excessive amount of stress and students are struggling to pass it while testing well on other achievement tests. I believe that the state needs to re-examine the WASL program, creating a more flexible one that factors in multiple measures and/or multiple assessments.

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

I strongly support public financing of campaigns. As an elected official, I have experienced first hand the challenges of campaigning and how special interest contributions impact decision-makers. It is imperative that the playing field be more level. Representation by, for, and of the people needs to be restored.

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?

Our criminal justice system is in need of attention. Our communities spend almost 50% of their budget on Public Safety. When I think of crime, I remember the night I came home to find my kitchen window broken due to an attempted break in. Education is one of the most powerful tools in preventing crime. If a person does end up the system, I support a strong rehabilitation program for ex-felons including education and a monitored support program.

I have 1<sup>st</sup> hand experience with domestic violence and gun violence. Many years ago I was in a relationship where I found myself in the offices of the Domestic Abuse Women's Network as a client. Education is critical in the prevention of domestic violence. In my neighborhood two weeks ago police were called and successfully prevented one person from suicide with a gun. Unfortunately they weren't so lucky with the second person who, that same night, used a shot gun aimed at his head to end his own life. Education and intervention programs are imperative in curbing gun violence. I also strongly support gun control legislation and banning assault weapons.

Signature

Date

Please attach your resume.