

2009 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

| First Name | Middle Initial or Nickname | Last Name |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Linda | Louise | Kochmar |

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

City of Federal Way City Council, Position 2

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

35 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

35 years

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Citizens for Kochmar

Address: P.O. Box 4981 or 30333 First Avenue South (Federal Way, 98003)

City/State/Zip: Federal Way, WA 98063-4981

Campaign Phone: 253-839-7419

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: LKochmar1@aol.com

Campaign Website: _____

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

| Public Office | Elective or Appointive? | Dates Held | Leadership Role (if any) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Federal Way City Council, Pos. 2 | Elected | 1998-2009 | Deputy Mayor (twice) |
| Suburban Cities Public Issues Com. | Elected by 30 City Council Members | 2009 | Chair |
| Puget Sound Regional Council | Appointed | 2008-2009 | Executive Board |

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

| Office Title | Year of Run |
|--------------|-------------|
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SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
- **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
- **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
- **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?

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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I am running for re-election to continue to make a difference in Federal Way. I moved to Federal Way in 1972 with my young husband and three children. The city was littered with signs, had streets that did not connect, and lacked vision. I volunteered in my childrens' schools and my Church, was elected to the Federal Way Community Council in 1978, and was a part of the successful City Incorporation Committee in 1998.

After I was elected to the City Council in 1998, I was happy to be a part of the decision-making process to improve the look of the downtown by adding street trees, street lights, and medians. We improved the transportation problems by adding a Sound Transit garage, and by widening the streets and intersections. I traveled to Washington D.C. on six different occasions to lobby for federal funds and was successful in obtaining \$13 million for these projects. We need more federal funds, however for our triangle project, which is an approximately \$200 million intersection at I-5/Hwy18. This is needed to alleviate traffic congestion and to provide east/west connectivity for the region. Since Federal Way is designated an Urban Center (an urban core city) under the Growth Management Act, we need to provide for an increase in population. We've attempted to do this by changing the zoning to allow for more height, up to twenty stories, in the downtown area. A mixed-use project was approved for development that would provide four high-rise buildings, including retail, office space, and condo's/apartments, however the development funds do not appear to be available.

We need to continue with the improvement plan for the downtown, work on the traffic congestion, provide for park improvements, and hopefully work toward a conference center/performing arts center. The Legislature has provided \$500,000 for a study for the performing arts center and reserved \$3,000,000 for project development. I believe that I can add continuity to the planning process and can continue to lobby for state and federal funds for these efforts. In short, there's so much more to do and I'd like another four years to help complete these projects. I also provide leadership on a regional basis with Suburban Cities.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

Character and integrity are two of the most important characteristics for an elected official to have. I believe that I've demonstrated these qualities and feel that I have the trust of our citizens. I was elected as "Best City Leader" by the readers of the Federal Way Mirror in 2008. It's not always easy to remain true to your beliefs when in the middle of a heated discussion and being pressured to arrive at a certain conclusion. Ethics are very important to me and I make every effort to avoid situational ethics, which is having the ethics fit the situation. I've worked hard on my Council to explain to my colleagues that we can debate a topic, disagree, take a vote, and then move on without hard feelings.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

When I was first elected to the City Council, the citizens and council had an extensive debate on how to build a new city hall. We established a municipal building committee, established a price, and chose an existing building to completely remodel for the new city hall. The \$15 million project was built on time and within budget. I was successful in arguing for the lower cost and location for this building.

The community needed a new swimming pool, so the next large project that the council worked on was a community center. We established a citizens committee, selected the elements for the community center, established a price range, and completed the \$21 million building several years ago. The center includes a wave action leisure pool, a six-lane lap pool, a three-bay gym, a hot tub, a banquet room, an exercise room, a climbing wall, a children's care room, and a senior center. Some of the adjectives used to describe the building are awesome, beautiful, and stunning. I am very pleased to have had a role in planning a project that was so very much needed in the community.

I've helped plan the streets, chose the "street furniture" (trees & lights), and as Chair of the Land Use Committee worked on zoning changes to plan for growth for Federal Way. I am recognized regionally for my work with Suburban Cities and now meet with the PSRC Executive, the King County Executive, and Chair of the King County Council with the Suburban Cities Leadership to discuss policy issues that affect the region.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

Prior to the City Council, I was elected as Secretary of the PTA, elected to my Church Administrative Council Leadership committee, and elected to the Federal Way Community Council. I've worked to improve the schools my children attended and as a member of the Community Council helped to provide the foundation for city incorporation. I've been an integral part of the development of the community and city over the last 35 years.

I've been involved with homeowner's associations looking for more police protection. I've been part of the elementary schools helping to educate children about water quality, conservation, and the environment.

I am a member of Kiwanis, Soroptomists, and the American Association of University Women, Federal Way Chapter. And, I speak on a frequent basis at community events, such as Flag Day and school graduations.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

The City Council is perhaps one of the more important legislative bodies for local citizens because the decisions that the council makes directly affect them where they live. These include such things as public safety, road overlay, garbage collection, property taxes, utility taxes, traffic congestion, and park improvements.

The most important duty of a Council Member is to ensure public safety. The Council Member also needs to provide appropriate planning for roads, parks, and quality of life issues. Perhaps one of the most important duties of the Council Member is to select a City Manager that is capable of carrying out the direction of the Council.

A Council Member needs to provide leadership to the community by listening to the concerns of the citizens and then provide a vision for the city.