

2010 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Art		Coday

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

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

10 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

30 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Republican

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Vote Coday Today

Address: P.O. Box 55926

City/State/Zip: Shoreline, WA 98155-0926

Campaign Phone: 206-795-4252

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Campaign E-mail: info@artcoday.com

Campaign Website: www.artcoday.com

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)
<u>Precinct Committee Officer</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>Vice Chairman 32nd LD GOP</u>

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

Office Title	Year of Run
<u>U.S. Senate WA State (I withdrew May 2010 to run for the current office, WA State House of Representatives, 32nd LD, Position 1.) 2010.</u>	

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Section II

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 this office because I feel called to leadership here in the State Washington at a time when our state is in serious trouble.

The people of Washington are experiencing the most financially challenging period in decades. The official unemployment rate in the state is nearly 10%, but in reality it is probably much higher, closer to the 15 or even 20% range. Washington businesses face high rates of taxation and burdensome requirements imposed by the state. Businesses such as the Boeing Company are making rational decisions to relocate operations out of state because other states and other countries are offering more conducive business environments than can be found in Washington. Many Washingtonians are losing their homes secondary to financial difficulty. Despite paying well over \$10,000 per year per child for public education, high school students in Washington have a dropout rate of approximately 30%. For those who do graduate many are unable to find seats in our publicly funded university system, even though the students and their families have paid taxes to help support these universities. Our state's Medicaid program, designed to serve the very poor, is an extremely expensive program which is failing to meet the needs of participating patients. This is because rates of reimbursement are substantially below the cost of doing business, and combined with administrative nightmares, many providers have been driven out of the program. The result is that participating patients have extremely limited access to care. This program will be challenged in a dramatic way as a result of the recently passed federal health-care bill which will substantially increase the number of patients enrolled in the program and increase health-care costs to municipalities, businesses, families, and individuals across the state.

Currently, our state government is unable to manage operations in a fiscally sound way and unable to effectively deal with the major problems in the state. While the state suffers, the only answers put forward by its governing leaders involve expansion of government and increased taxation. This is exactly the opposite of what is called for. At a time like this, our state needs smaller, leaner, more accountable and transparent government. Our businesses, families, and individuals need lower rates of taxation to provide them with relief, to stimulate the economy, and ultimately to create more jobs in the private sector. Finally, we need a state government which understands that overspending on its part has put the state in jeopardy. The fact that our state gets roughly 25% of its revenue from the federal government points out our vulnerability; given the fiscal condition of the federal government, our state would be wise to end its dependence on federal money.

As a medical doctor who runs a private practice and who sees mainly Medicare (seniors, permanently disabled) and Medicaid (very poor) patients, and as a family man who well knows the responsibility involved in raising children, I know how to do more with less and how to live within my means. I think I possess the courage and the leadership necessary to speak the truth to our citizens and do what must be done to get Washington on solid ground. At the same time, I think I have the compassion necessary to win their trust; they will know I really do care about them and am seeking office to serve them.

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

An attitude of service is the most important personal trait I will bring to the Washington State Legislature.

Being a state legislator is all about being a public servant. By definition, this means serving the general interest of the public. This means that the interest of the general public must be placed higher than my own personal interest and higher than the multitude of special-interests that seem to be so disproportionately represented in the public square.

The foundation upon which my attitude of service rests is my personal integrity. Integrity is the basis on which others will trust and respect my work in the Legislature. It is the personal quality that gives value to all other personal qualities.

My intellect, work ethic, good judgment, and love for people will also be valuable in the legislature.

The personal qualities listed above have been integral in my work as a physician.

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.

My father died when I was in the 10th grade. This resulted in a financial hardship for the family, and for that reason I deferred college after graduating from high school even though I wanted to go to college and then to medical school. In the four years after high school graduation, I worked on a full-time basis to help support my family. Because I wanted to become a doctor, I worked in biomedical research, one year in a University of Washington biochemistry laboratory and three years at the Hope Heart Institute. This turned out to be great preparation for my future career in medicine. During the third and fourth years of this phase, I continued to work full time during the day and took night classes in mathematics at Bellevue Community College. This was a great time in my life because I learned much about taking responsibility for my family and my own future. During these years, my younger sister was able to attend college; she graduated from college and now has a doctorate degree in clinical psychology. Had I not been working on full-time basis, there would have been more financial pressure on her at the time.

After working four years on a full-time basis, I enrolled at the University of Washington on a full-time basis. After two years, I applied to Harvard Medical School with the hope of being able to start medical school after completing three years of college instead of the usual four. The admissions office at the medical school said that strictly speaking, students could enroll after three years of college with no undergraduate degree, but practically speaking it would not have been worth my while to even apply for such early admission due to the competitive nature of admission. Nevertheless, I applied after my second year at the University of Washington. In the spring of my third year I received my letter of acceptance to Harvard Medical School and enrolled in the fall of what would have been my fourth year at the University of Washington. After completing my first year of medical school I was awarded my undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, which accepted the first year of medical

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school as one full year of elective credits toward my undergraduate degree. Having sacrificed to work for four years to help support my family, during which time I deferred my own education, it was very rewarding to be able to start medical school a year earlier than expected at the school I most wanted to attend.

Finally, I've been very privileged to care for the medical needs of my patients. I see mainly Medicare and Medicaid patients, thus my patients are mainly seniors, permanently disabled, and/or very poor. I enjoy the practice of medicine, and the gratification that comes from serving people from all backgrounds. However, it is especially rewarding to care for those who are most vulnerable. In order to be able to see patients from these government programs that pay very little for my services, one year ago I closed my office in order to reduce the overhead of my practice. However, I have kept the patients and I see them by making home visits and nursing home calls.

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.

Raising my two children along with my wife has been a very rich and rewarding experience. However, I have most certainly learned firsthand about the enormous responsibility involved in raising children. I think it is essential that legislators always remember the paramount importance of parents not only to their own children but to society as a whole.

I served in the Board of the North Seattle Christian School from 2001 to 2005. I served two years as the Treasurer and one year as the President. During these years the school faced many challenges, including the need to move to a new campus. I had the challenge of negotiating the terms of the lease with the new landlord. Due to the downturn in the economy, as well as the demographic of shoreline, the schools saw decreasing enrollment during these years. This created significant financial pressure, but in spite of this we were able to operate in the black at all times while maintaining an excellent academic program and retaining staff. Ultimately, I participated in the creation of a new private school district into which our school merged. I learned a great deal in these years about working with others in joint decision-making, bringing people together to accomplish common purposes, and how to resolve differences amongst colleagues. I think this experience will serve me very well as a state representative.

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

The primary duty of a representative to the State House of Representatives is to legislate. To do this properly will require a good understanding of our state and federal constitutions, along with a more general understanding of our state, including its people, economy, environment, and history. It will require vision, leadership, a platform, and a plan. Perhaps most importantly, it will require good judgment and wisdom in order to prioritize the needs of our state.

Once the priorities have been set, it will then be necessary to appropriately budget for them. For this, great discipline will be required in order to make sure the state lives within its means. It will then be

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essential to make sure that state-funded agencies, programs, and services are actually delivering a value to our state and its people commensurate with the appropriated resources.

Finally, it will be essential to have the ability to listen to my constituents and to the other people of the state. My job will be to represent them!