

## 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
Bob		Hasegawa

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

**Representative, 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**Lifelong resident, living in the house I grew up in on Beacon Hill**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**Lifelong resident, living in the house I grew up in on Beacon Hill**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Democratic**

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Bob Hasegawa for State Representative

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#### 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)
State Representative	Elected	January 2005 to present	Chair, Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee (JARRC) Vice Chair, Finance Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N/A	

## 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 because the legislature needs a strong voice for working families, small businesses, and disenfranchised/underserved/disadvantaged communities. Those with resources already have an overstated voice in the legislative process. Those without resources need representation as well and I try to be their voice. But more importantly, they also need help organizing their own powerful voice. This is one of my legislative priorities—to organize within these communities so they speak with their own powerful voice. There are fundamentally two main sources of power: money, and people. Money seems to have the upper hand. My job is to bring our democracy back to the people.**

**I have a long history of fighting for economic and social justice and have continued that struggle during my tenure in the House of Representatives. I bring my organizing and administrative skills to the legislature and been effective, not only in passing progressive legislation, but in blocking regressive legislation.**

**I feel my forté is my systems approach to the legislature. During my first three terms, I've chosen not to pursue a committee chair position because I feel I can be more effective viewing the legislative landscape from "30,000 feet" and making strategic and tactical decisions on many different bills and approaches to problem solving. A committee chair must commit 100% effort to administering their jurisdiction, which means sacrificing full analysis on all bills outside the committee's jurisdiction and relying on the analysis of others, whom one may or may not be politically aligned with. This sacrifice is not one I've been willing to make.**

**Furthermore, while accepting a designated position of political leadership in the caucus does allow one to proceed more systemically, it unfortunately also requires political allegiance to the collective will of the leadership body, lest they should lose confidence and control of the caucus. This is also a commitment I've been unwilling to make.**

**Consequently, I've strategically avoided a "leadership" role and instead filled a role as "conscience" and overseer that can only be executed if one is not locked into caucus leadership or committee chair. However, this role requires a lot of skill to speak to issues while not threatening individuals, otherwise I would lose credibility and relationships with other members, which would kill my effectiveness as a legislator.**

**From my position, I am able to at once pass my own progressive legislation, fight to pass others' progressive legislation, and fight against regressive legislation. I've been giving thought to revising my legislative strategy but at this time I'm still committed to playing my crucial overseer role.**

**I am running because there is still so much to be done, and conditions right now provide an historic opportunity that we cannot afford to squander. We have a chance to create a vision for Washington that the people are starving for and will mobilize to support, if we are smart enough to take advantage of the situation. The historic Obama campaign showed us that people are starving for leadership in the form of creating the grand common vision, and creating the hope to motivate the people to achieve that vision. The Obama administration has all but squandered the powerful movement that the Obama campaign built. But its not too late to salvage the opportunity.**

**So, this is the essence of my campaign: vision, hope, organize and mobilize. You can find the details of my accomplishments easily enough be tracking my bills both prime and secondarily sponsored. I'm also happy to share anecdotal stories about accomplishments which are less well documented like how I effectively fought against bad/regressive legislation. But, these details are secondary to the much more important core values of my tenure and campaign which are honesty, integrity, creating collective vision and hope for justice and equity, and organizing to create sufficient mobilization capacity to achieve that vision.**

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

**I work effectively with legislators on both sides of the aisle and am not so concerned about needing to “get credit.” For instance, this last session I was able to pass HB 1096 out of the House with bi-partisan support and with a striking amendment prime sponsored by Rep. Orcutt (R). As chair of the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee I worked with the ranking minority member to craft legislation that held the State Building Code Council accountable for inadequate research prior to rule-making, again allowing the ranking member to sponsor the amendment.**

**I have strong core values that guide my decision-making. That being said, I don’t lord my values over others. I speak to legislative issues from my values based perspective and try to avoid threatening personal attacks or condescension. This is tricky when one is caught up in the moment on the House floor, or in committee, but is an essential skill if one is to maintain an effective working relationship with the other members.**

**I think strategically and from a whole systems perspective. This allows me to better evaluate legislation for its long-term effectiveness toward goals on the road to achieving the grand vision, rather than dithering over tweaks that may or may not bring positive outcomes. Yes details are important, and I am very good at the details of legislation (at least as good as can be expected with the huge number of bills we’re dealing with in such a limited time), but narrow vision seems to dominate the legislative process and I think I’m good at keeping legislation in context of the larger vision.**

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.

**One of my proudest accomplishments was in 1994 when I led a strike against UPS. This is not a well known action like the 1997 UPS strike that shut down UPS nationally and internationally, but it is just as huge a victory. Reformers (including myself) had just taken over the Teamsters Union in 1992 and the ousted old guard was fighting us in every way imaginable. The old guard had been charged by the federal government with corruption and racketeering with opened the door for us reformers to take back the union for the membership and attempt to bring union democracy to the Teamsters Union.**

**In 1993, the Teamsters ratified a collective bargaining agreement with UPS. Immediately after ratification, UPS announced a major change in a term and condition of employment (a mandatory subject of bargaining)—they were raising the package weight limit from 70 lbs. to 150 lbs. UPS already had the highest industrial injury rate of any trucking company yet were planning unilateral implementation of this change without negotiating its effects with the union. Furthermore, they new this change was going to happen even as the 1993 contract was being negotiated, which meant they were negotiating in bad faith.**

**UPS refused to negotiate, which led to a strike. But, the old guard decided they could not allow reformers to win such a huge victory for the members, so they scabbed on the strike. In fact, throughout the entire ½ of the US west of Chicago, our Local 174 here in Seattle (of which I was the leader, i.e. Secretary-Treasurer) was the only Local that had the guts to strike UPS. The strike was an unmitigated victory, lasting only 16 hours and the company agreed to allowing any worker to unilaterally refuse to handle packages over 70 lbs. without help from another bargaining unit member.**

**The lesson here is that workers can win when they organize and have the courage to stand up for their convictions.**

**A second proud moment was in 2000 when Local 174 honored a Newspaper Guild strike against the Seattle Times. Our members only interest was recognizing that their interests were linked with the Guild's and with our leadership, voted 100% to honor their picket line. Solidarity is a very powerful thing. One old-timer Teamster came up to me during the strike and said, "Bob, I really want to thank you for this. To think, I'm getting ready to retire and I could have retired never having experienced the power of us all sticking together. This is an amazing feeling and I just want to thank you for that."**

**One final thought that regards the WTO demonstrations of November 1999, which I was a lead organizer of the union piece (Teamsters and Turtles United At Last). Those demonstrations of cross cultural and international solidarity founded a global campaign against unbridled corporate globalization and forced economic and social justice into the WTO calculus.**

**As for proud moments in the legislature, I've had my share of legislative victories but they just don't seem to compare with the real social change victories that come from organizing and mobilizing the people.**

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.

**I think the most important activity I participated in as a young adult was Boy Scouts at Japanese Baptist Church (legendary Troop 53). Our troop was led by adults who had just come back from WWII American concentration camps where they were imprisoned just because of their ethnicity even though they were American citizens. From those camps, they went on to enlist in the US Army and became the most decorated Army unit in the history of the Army (442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team). Loyalty, honor, integrity, hard hard work, “gaman”, community, service, faith, education, survival and self-sufficiency. These were all values engrained into me by our leaders and which formed the person I am today, with a deep dedication to protecting civil rights and fighting for social justice.**

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

**Legislative branch by definition is to legislate the governing laws of the state. But the duties extend far beyond simple legislation. Good legislation only comes as a result of having the power to get it passed. So, organizing in the community so the people can leverage their power in the legislative arena is probably the most important duty of a legislator. Of course there are other ancillary duties like constituent case work, which some constituents feel is a primary duty, but legislators are not resourced to do much case work. The job of State Representative is supposedly part-time, but to do it correctly is more than full-time. Organizing people is the toughest job there is, the most under-valued, yet the most important. I think that is the primary job of a legislator. If that is done well, good legislation should follow.**