

## 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
Carol	J	Gregory

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

**House of Representatives 30<sup>th</sup> District Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes      x No

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

**27 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**47years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Democrat

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Friends of Carol Gregory

Address: PO Box 3796

City/State/Zip: Federal Way Washington 98063

Campaign Phone: (253) 370-1482

Campaign Fax: Coming soon. We just moved into our office

Campaign E-mail: Alexandria.al@gmail.com

Campaign Website: Being set up.

#### 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)

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

Office Title	Year of Run
House of Representatives 30 <sup>th</sup> District Position 2	2008

## 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 the House of Representatives because we need to do more to avoid the crippling effects of economic downturns. The failures on Wall Street reaped economic havoc in Washington State causing thousands of people to become unemployed and thousands more to become stuck in low-wage jobs. There will always be boom and bust cycles in the economy but I believe with some long-term planning we could minimize the damage to the lives of people who live here.**

**As a former teacher and a grandmother of three children attending Federal Way Public Schools, I find it atrocious that we continue to under-fund education at a time when we should be redoubling our efforts. We are failing our children and the future we all share. We need a representative in this seat who is committed to fully fund education. I have not only that unwavering commitment but also experience work in many aspects of our education system. I have worked as a teacher, as President of the Washington Education Association, as a school district community engagement specialist, and as a Special Assistant to former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Judith Billings.**

**I believe in order to fully fund education we are going to have to enact comprehensive tax reform in this state in the long term and in the short term have the courage to sunset tax exemptions.**

**While living and working in King County for the past 47 years, I have seen a great deal of change in our region, including the 30<sup>th</sup> District. It is imperative that we ensure a prosperous economic future for all. Improving our education system will help in the long-term but we can and must invest in adult education and training to move people stuck in low wage jobs into the economic mainstream. We need to restructure our education and training systems to allow the working poor to gain the skills and certifications necessary to make a living wage for themselves and their families. I am currently the Director of the Burst for Prosperity Initiative, a poverty reduction initiative. In that capacity I have studied the barriers that keep people stuck in low wage jobs. Washingtonians know this problem exists and are demanding representative who will push for the positive change we need. As I doorbell, I hear a cry for leadership which I believe I can provide. I will bring a strong vision and skills to address these issues. It is important to invest in our infrastructure but we must invest equally in the lives of our people. I believe that I have the experience and judgment to make a significant**

**difference on these critical issues for the people of my district and our state.**

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

**The personal characteristics I possess that will most effectively help me serve the public are courage, the ability to lead, the ability to advocate for what I believe, a willingness to listen and learn, the ability to solve problems and build coalitions, and the ability to think creatively and not be constricted by what is.**

**I believe a person in public office must follow through on the strength of their convictions. It is important to work with constituents to pass legislation to meet their needs. But legislation is only half of the equation. A courageous legislator must also take the hard vote of funding that legislation—that I will do.**

**I believe a person serving in public office has to be a good listener and be able to “think outside the box” to create solutions to support families in the rapidly changing 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. I have striven to exemplify that kind of listening and thinking throughout my career.**

**I believe a person in public office must be a coalition-builder and a problem-solver. As a legislator, it is important to work across the aisle but it is also necessary to have a network in the community and the state that you can draw on to work with and support change. I have such a network.**

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.

**In 2000 I had the opportunity to be one of the co-founders of City Year Seattle/King County. City Year is a notional program created in Boston and was the model used by Bill Clinton in the creation of Americorp. City Year brings together 18-24 olds from all walks of life to spend a year in community service and personal growth. Corp members are very diverse ethnically, educationally, and economically. In this environment have the opportunity to build citizenship skills that can be the basis of life long civic engagement. Understanding how to empower people to take charge of their lives to create positive change is important when developing public policy.**

**As a teacher with seven years of experience, in 1976 I became President of the Washington Education Association. I have a strong belief in collective power to create positive change and I demonstrated that during my five years in that position. I drove 40,000 miles a year around the state to unify teachers and convince them that together we could achieve real change in the lives of our students, our own lives, and strengthen the education system. As a society we entrust our most precious asset—our children—to teachers but at that time teachers had a very limited voice in determining education policy and very little opportunity to affect their own working conditions. During my tenure I provided the leadership to implement collective bargaining rights for teachers. It was in this position that I really learned how change occurs: when communities come together to change public will. It was through this experience that I was able to build my leadership skills to organize people to create change. As a legislator it is important to know how to build public support for change.**

**Today I serve as the Director of the Burst for Prosperity Initiative. Our mission is to change systems to help people move out of poverty economically. Our model is to build partnerships and coalitions to create change. My knowledge of systems has allowed me to provide the leadership to strategically impact systems to more effectively support people to living wage**

**jobs. An example is the Puget Sound Wellcome Back Center at Highline Community College that assists immigrants and refugees who have degrees and certificates in health care enter their chosen profession and earn a living wage.**

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.

- 1. Highline School District Community Engagement Specialist. In this capacity I developed partnerships between the school district and ethnically based community organizations. Together we worked with parents from various communities by listening to their concerns, connecting them with their local schools, and solving problems together. This model honored the expertise in the community and helped Highline partner with their various communities from a basis of trust and respect.**
- 2. Founder, Board Member and Chair of City Year Seattle/King County 1998-2005**
- 3. Member of the Board and Chair of Washington State NARAL, 1988-2002**
- 4. Member, King County Women's Political Caucus 1980's**
- 5. Member King County Workforce Investment Council, 2000-2004**
- 6. Member 30<sup>th</sup> District Democrats 1984-2010**
- 7. President-elect and President, Washington Education Association 1975-1981**
- 8. Mentor for newly created ethnic organizations, Para los Ninos, Refugee support Services Coalition, Somali Youth and Family Club 2003-2010.**

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

As the title of the office describes, the foremost duty is to **represent** the best interests of all of the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative district. This duty requires that you listen to people's hopes, dreams and concerns and help them facilitate change through the legislative process. That can be helping work through the governmental bureaucracy to solve a problem to researching and drafting legislation to create change.

A second duty is to **advocate** for change that will positively affect the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> District. This duty might be working to stabilize and fund local schools or providing additional workforce education and training opportunities at the local community college, community vased organization or place of employment.

I think another duty is to **educate**. A strong democracy requires the participation of it's citizens. The role of representative is to encourage participation. Educating people on the legilslative process can be done in many ways. It may be by speaking at community meetings on particular topics, working with people studying for their citizenship test, speaking to students, or helping people with the development and advocacy of legislation they seek. All further the opportunity to strengthen our form of government, a critical role a representative must fulfill.