

## 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
Cathy		Dahlquist

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

**State Representative, 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District, Position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**10 years-my husband was born and raised in the district**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**20 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Campaign to Elect Cathy Dahlquist

Address:      1348 Florence St

City/State/Zip:      Enumclaw, WA 98022

Campaign Phone:      253-653-3163

Campaign Fax:      360-825-0484

Campaign E-mail:      dahlquist2010@comcast.net

Campaign Website:      www.cathydahlquist.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)
School District Director	Elected	2005-2009 2009-present	President-2008 & 2009 Legislative Representative-2010

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

Office Title	Year of Run

## 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 thrilled to let voters know that the choice is clear this November on who would best represent them from the 31st Legislative District. I am excited to announce that I have put together a strong campaign team and we are off and running toward the end zone in November!

Our economic outlook has gotten worse. The 2010 Legislative session is over and we continue to face additional shortfalls in the state budget. Despite the fact that our Legislature is facing a record deficit, millions of dollars in new taxes and spending continued to be passed. We must act now to restore fiscal responsibility to our state Legislature.

Education is an issue that is very close to my heart. I have seen the effects of a legislature that has ignored its own constitution by not fully funding basic education. We must have an education system that prepares all our students for success in life. We need a plan of action and elected officials that are brave enough to follow through with that plan.

I share your vision of a better Washington. I have the experience and the integrity to move us in a fiscally responsible direction. Our state can provide the best schools in the nation and relief for business owners. We can have a strong economy and a healthy environment.



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

Family

I am a wife and mother of 3. Our oldest, Jennifer, lives in Seattle with her husband and our wonderful granddaughter. Our son, Jeffery, is 15 and a freshman at Enumclaw High School where he runs cross-country. Our daughter, Hannah is 14 in eighth grade at Enumclaw Middle School and loves horseback riding. She and her horse IndyGo compete in 4-H. Hannah plays premiere soccer for the Auburn Youth Soccer Association.

Business Owner

My husband and I are small business owners. The dramatic change in the economy has impacted construction, so our small architectural firm has taken a hit lately. We work on both residential and commercial projects that have allowed us to develop lifelong relationships.

Education

I obtained my Bachelor's of Science from the University of Alabama, Roll Tide! I grew up on the west coast but always wanted to attend Alabama because my grandfather was a journalism professor there and I became a fan of the Crimson Tide as a child. I have worked in sales and marketing, changing course in 2002 to start a business with my husband.

I truly believe to remain true to your constituency is the most important part of becoming a state representative and that takes personal integrity!

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.

I was first elected to the School Board after a hotly contested general election race. I worked hard to make a change. The voters liked what I did and have elected me to a second term. I have earned the second term through strong advocacy for the people of my district.

In 2005 I challenged our community to make a change in the leadership of our schools. We have. Better student-teacher relationships have flourished throughout our schools since my election. Positive changes in leadership roles have dramatically improved student learning. Community, staff and student input has helped guide the Enumclaw School District to a more focused vision.

The team I worked with on the national search for a new superintendent brought one of the best and brightest new education leaders in our state. Mr. Mike Nelson was recently a nominee for the National Superintendent of the Year contest after only two and one-half years serving as our Superintendent. Yes, we did a good job replacing the former superintendent.

While I still do volunteer work, even before serving on the school board I obtained grants for public park facilities.

My promise is to continue to stay true to my core values of integrity and honor. I will advocate for you with those same values at the state level. I work hard and believe a good work ethic is extremely important when representing the public. I keep my promises.

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.

School Board

I am in my second term on the Enumclaw School Board, the last two years I have been the president and currently serve at a legislative representative. My fellow board members have humbled me with their confidence in my ability to lead. We have accomplished much together.

I am honored to have the support of those I have served with. My actions and life experiences have proven my worth in seeking to be your State Representative from the 31st Legislative District.

Washington State School Directors Association ("WSSDA") Conference Presenter

At the 2009 WSSDA Conference I presented the topic Communicating With Your Constituents in a Struggling Economy because we had succeeded in passing a Capital Facilities and Instructional Technology Levy, created a common K-12 early dismissal program and made sever budget reductions successfully in a single season.

At the 2008 WSSDA Conference I presented the topic of Leadership's Responsibility in Communicating with the Public.

Grant Work

In 2004, I wrote and obtained a King County Youth Sports Facility Grant. Then I collected and managed a volunteer group of hundreds for site preparation and construction of a 7000 square community playground.

In 2006, I wrote and obtained a King County Youth Sports Facility Grant, organized a collection of volunteers and constructed an 8000 square foot community playground.

Symphony Guild Board President

I promoted and supported the arts through the Rowan County Symphony. The Symphony Guild raised substantial funds for the Society and rendered invaluable service to the board, the orchestra, and the entire community.

Participation in Organizations

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Enumclaw – Saint Rita's Circle Member  
King County 4-H advisor  
Kibler Elementary PTA  
WSSDA Member  
Auburn Youth Soccer Association

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

Accountability:

In my service on the Enumclaw School Board our motto has been to ensure all decisions are conducted in an open, honest and transparent process. All of our regular board meetings are on public television; something many school districts refuse to allow. We reach out to our constituents by way of school messaging, the Connections page in the Enumclaw Courier Herald, climate surveys. That data collected from our community, staff, parents and students are used in setting vision and decision making.

Listening to your Constituency:

Listening is an important aspect in public service. After listening, ACTING is the most important responsibility of a State Representative. One of the newly adopted goals for the Enumclaw School District was to promote the growth of professional learning communities within all of our schools. The board was charged with figuring out how to give staff the time necessary to best improve student learning. We went out to the public with several meetings collecting input from parents, students, staff and community businesses. The 2009-2010 school year has proven to be extremely successful in accommodating all parties and actually making a difference in student learning.

Qualifications:

My experience in public service along-side a strong work ethic I can affect change in Olympia. Now in my 5th year of service on the Enumclaw School Board I have learned firsthand the effects of our current economy on our staff and students. We have seen an over 23% increase in applications for the federal free and reduced lunch program over the last 2 years. Families in all communities are struggling. Schools are at the front line of the battlefield in dealing with economic crisis in families. I have dealt with issues on crime, transportation, health care, energy, DSHS, wasteful government regulations and spending all while trying to educate the children of the Enumclaw School District. Am I an expert on all of these topics? No. Do I have relevant and practical experience in all of these areas? YES!

Fiscal Stewardship:

A top priority when I serve you as the next State Representative from the 31st Legislative District. I am a fiscal conservative that wants to rid Olympia of wasteful spending! The money that has been spent over the last 10 years at the state level is deplorable and has lead us to the current debt and unemployment rates. As a board member we have directed our district administration to maintain an unreserved fund balance of 5%, a task that very few of the 295 districts in this state have achieved. I have proven myself to be a responsible steward of the funds Enumclaw School District receives and the taxpayer's dollars.

Re-engaging our Citizens:

Our government has been built..."by the people and for the people". I have motivated many non-political individuals at the grass roots level to become involved with my campaign. They are learning how important their voice can be Olympia. I will continue to spur action in our community of the 31st district.

Fostering Partnerships:

Partnerships are a critical piece in setting a vision for our future. By developing many different relationships with private and public entities I have gained more insight and data to assist in making educated decisions.

While serving as the school board president for the last two years I have developed partnerships with different community groups. I was instrumental in celebrating and recognizing the service of past board members that still live and work in our communities. Enumclaw High School now has 29% of staff Nationally Board Certified, more than any other high school in the state of Washington. I have actively participated in our community Hospital Foundation Auction, the Chamber of Commerce Auction and promoted the arts. Many of our district administration team serves our community on the Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis organizations. As a board member we encourage and support partnerships in many different areas throughout the Enumclaw School District.