

## 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
Christopher		Hurst

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

**State Representative, 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District, Pos. 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?            X Yes  No

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

**Life**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**I live in Pierce County**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: **Independent Democrat**

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Citizens for Christopher Hurst

Address:                                62504 Indian Summer Way E

City/State/Zip:                    Enumclaw, WA 98022

Campaign Phone:                360-63-2608

Campaign Fax:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:                Chrishurst2010@q.com

Campaign Website:               www.christopherhurst.org

#### 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, 31 <sup>st</sup> Legislative District, Pos. 2	Elected 4 times	1998, 2000, 2006, 2008	Current Chair of the House Public Safety Committee, former Chair of the House Select Committee on Community Security

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

Office Title	Year of Run
State Representative, 31 <sup>st</sup> Legislative District, Pos. 2	1996


## 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.)

**Most of my adult life has been spent in public service. I was a commissioned police officer for over 25 years and retired just short of 4 years ago. At the end of my career I was the Commander of a 15-city Homicide/Violent Crimes Task Force with 14 detectives working for me. I have been elected to the Washington State House of Representatives 4 times now and am currently Chair of the House Public Safety Committee. There was a 4 year break in my service in the legislature when my daughter entered high school. I chose to leave politics during the 4 years she was in high school and returned to elective politics when she turned 18. I have been married to my wife, April, for 32 years and we have two children who attended public schools. My wife is the owner of an animal grooming business in Enumclaw called April's Pet Salon. Prior to working in law enforcement, when I was young, I worked in the woods as a logger. When I entered law enforcement I returned to school and earned a college degree in Aviation and am also an FAA certified Airline Transport Pilot, but never flew for commercial airlines. I did however fly for the government when I was assigned to a federal drug task force during my police career.**

**I am an Independent Democrat and work within the structure of the House Democratic Caucus to represent the views and values of the district I serve. As a retired police officer, I consider my service in the legislature now to be a full time job. I am running to continue my work trying to find cooperative solutions in Olympia and to move both sides from the more radical extremes of party politics into a more inclusive process whereby everyone shares in both problems and solutions. The "winner take all" approach is not working well and people are really tired of it, hence the strong dislike and distrust in party politics and strictly partisan solutions.**

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

**Taking a collaborative approach to problems. As a committee chair, my goal was not to move a single bill on simply a party line vote out of my committee. I almost succeeded with only one single bill moving on a party line vote. I am very proud of this approach. There are 98 members in the House, not 61. All of them were sent there by folks who expected their voices to be heard, as well as ideas about their dreams and beliefs as to how government should represent them. I believe that the more you get people to share in a problem, the more they take ownership not only in the problem, but then they have a vested ownership in the solution as well. Listening and trying to work with everyone is how I approach legislating.**

**Many legislators believe that being in the majority means that you spend all of your time crushing and paying back your opponents, until such time as you are in the minority where you fight your enemies until you are back in the majority again. This is a senseless waste of effort and creates an enormous erosion of the public trust. I grow weary of this childish approach by many legislators and their inability to understand that all they are doing is disenfranchising the public at large who become disgusted with government and elected officials. Ultimately, their only measurable gain is to their own egos. Everyone else loses.**

**Legislating is about working with others by first sharing problems and then engaging others in working on finding solutions. That is how I approach the duties of my office.**

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.

**My work as Chair of the House Public Safety Committee and the significant number of very important bills we passed this last legislative session. Ultimately, they all passed by significant margins in the House and Senate, but only because of strong bi-partisan work. As committee chair, I sponsor very few bills in my committee. I see the job of committee chair as working to help others succeed and finding ways to get good policy ideas turned into good laws. Most committee chairs prime sponsor almost all of the really good legislation, leaving very little left for others. I not only did not sponsor most of the bills in my committee, I made sure that important pieces of legislation were prime sponsored by members of both parties.**

**The solution to the Lake Tapps problem and the conversion of a hydraulic power production water right for 2,000 cubic feet per second into a consumptive water right now owned by the Cascade Water Alliance. This process has taken 11 years and is the last major domestic water source that will ever be developed on such a large scale in the Western United States. I was an original founding member of the Lake Tapps Task Force, and we are now in the very last final stage of the conversion and issuance of the water right by the Department of Ecology. Untold millions of people will be impacted by this in the years to come. This endeavor has been extremely involved and I believe that a book is being written about the process.**

**Being married to my wonderful wife for the last 32 years and raising a family. Just last July we traveled to Africa and climbed to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East Africa, which is 19,340 feet tall. She is still my best friend and partner in my adventures in life.**

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.

**Most are already listed above, but to summarize:**

**Working in the woods as a logger when I was a young man in the early 1970s. This taught me the meaning of a hard days work, and I have never forgotten it.**

**Being married for 32 years and raising a family. I now have two grandchildren – a term I have not quite gotten used to yet as I don't really feel very old.**

**Over 25 years as a commissioned law enforcement officer serving the public. I spend most of those years in investigations, either as a detective or as an Investigative Commander.**

**4 terms in the Washington State House of Representatives representing the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District. During those years I have chaired 2 committees and served on many others.**

**Getting an education in the public schools.**

**Involvement in many community associations and projects over the years, not only at home, but also overseas. Locally I work hard to make sure that food bank shelves don't go empty, but I have also been involved in organizations like Doctors without Borders dealing with crises around the globe.**

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

**The most important is representing citizens by being accessible when they want to contact you. I have a public website and always list my home phone number and home address. People can call me or stop by anytime they wish. Dealing with the needs of constituents is always the most important. They need to feel they have a voice and that someone is listening to them.**

**Second is working the legislative process in Olympia, using my experiences, beliefs, skills and information from the citizens in my district to help craft sensible public policy.**

**A new and very critical responsibility is to restore the confidence of the public in their government. Petty partisan bickering and extreme views are driving people away from their own government. We cannot succeed as a state and nation if we continue to be so divided. Citizens will not support critical societal needs if they feel excluded or are disgusted with the elected officials and legislative processes. We must mend this process and seek greater collaboration if we are to regain this trust.**