

## 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
Cindy	S	Ryu

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

**State Representative Legislative District 32 Position 1**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**I have lived in North King County/South Snohomish County since 1983 including Shoreline, Edmonds, and Lynnwood.**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**I first moved to King County in 1976 to attend University of Washington. I moved to Lynnwood & Edmonds for a total of 12 years, then moved back to Shoreline.**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Friends For Cindy Ryu

Address:      15005 Aurora Ave N

City/State/Zip:      Shoreline, WA 98133

Campaign Phone:      206-605-1588

Campaign Fax:      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:      friendsforcindyryu@yahoo.com

Campaign Website:      www.cindyryu.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)
<b>Shoreline City Councilmember</b>	<b>Elective</b>	<b>1/1/2006 – 12/31/2009</b>	
<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Elective from the City Council</b>	<b>Jan 2008 – December 2009</b>	
<b>Precinct Committee Officer</b>	<b>Appointive then Elective from Precinct</b>	<b>2005 - Currently</b>	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> LDDO State Committee Woman to Washington State Democratic Central Committee</b>

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Shoreline City Council	2003
Shoreline City Council	2009

## 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?

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.)

**Our state faces serious challenges: rising unemployment, swelling deficits and underfunded classrooms. We need proactive leadership in Olympia that invests in the solutions our state needs for its long-term prosperity. By listening considerately to the needs of my district and becoming as knowledgeable as possible about issues pertinent to the state as a whole, I intend to be an effective and decisive representative for my district.**

**I do not believe it is possible to cut our way to prosperity. At a time when nearly 1 in 10 Washingtonians are out of work, now is not the time to be making cuts to education, work force training, essential services, and the infrastructure and research projects that will create long-term wealth for our economy.**

**As someone with over 20 years' experience in the private sector, I strongly believe in ensuring that every cent of public money is being spent wisely. At the same time, it is our responsibility to closely examine what tax breaks we do and don't need, along with a deeper look into the fairness of our tax structure as a whole.**

**The people of our district deserve leadership that listens. I will take great steps to include and empower my constituents, and will strive to be as accessible as I am effective.**

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

**When I first immigrated to this country from South Korea 40 years ago, all I had was my family and my work ethic. Because of the excellent public education I experienced, and the living wage job my father enjoyed, I was able to study diligently and work hard to achieve a successful middle class life for myself and my family.**

**Despite my success, I have never lost sight of the fact that what I have achieved is not simply the product of my own individual work. *Anyone's* success is a team effort. The quality education that allowed me to succeed was a public investment, funded by taxpayers; the high-paying job at which my father worked was the product of decades of sacrifice by labor activists. Everything we enjoy comes from other people's work – we stand on others' shoulders - along with our own.**

**As Representative for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, every decision I make will be made with humility, as well as diligent effort.**

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.

**A. Environmental Leadership:**

**In my first 4 months on the Shoreline City Council, the Council adopted a goal “to create an environmentally sustainable community” in 2006. From this policy decision and with my leadership, in 2008 we adopted an award winning and comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Strategy and “environmental tool kit” for Capital Projects.**

**What started out as a beautification and safety road project in the first mile, the Aurora Avenue Improvement Project was made even better for the 2nd and third miles of this State Highway because of our focus on environmental sustainability.**

**In addition to the great start of sidewalks for pedestrians, the completion of the adjacent Interurban Trail for bikes, and a dedicated Business Access Transit lane, it will be "complete" with natural drainage systems, pervious sidewalks and installation of Silva Cells to improve the quality of water being released into Lake Washington. In fact, it is the largest project using the Silva Cell tree well technology in the State to give trees the room to grow to their potential.**

**B. Inviting Public Participation in the Legislative Process**

**Many citizens and local small business owners were feeling powerless and voiceless under a previous leadership. A former Mayor who served for 6 years and another 2 years as Deputy Mayor in Shoreline's 15 year history was known to have shown his disrespect for the business community and taxpayers by stating publicly that he did not care if the businesses along Aurora Avenue left because they were not making 30% profit as he was in his consulting business.**

**Another Mayor routinely pounded down public comment speakers who spoke contrary to his opinions.**

In contrast, I helped expand public comment opportunities at City Council meetings and increased public participation in our legislative processes by encouraging formation of citizen advisory committees to make sure all stakeholders had a voice in our decision making processes. Even though frequent and ample public participation made Shoreline City Council meetings longer and sometimes rancorous, I still believe that listening effectively to diverse opinions is an essential element of ultimately arriving at better decisions.

### C. Fiscal Responsibility

I believe that stability and sustainability of government and society, just like a household or a business, requires policy makers to be fiscally responsible. Astute management of expenses while planning for and ensuring stable revenue sources are tantamount to fiscal health of any organization, jurisdiction, business, or a household. I have been a responsible and extremely successful fiscal manager in my personal life and business endeavors, and I demanded the same of my government.

City of Shoreline, under my leadership, was fiscally responsible and solvent with reserve funds while continuing to provide essential services, and in fact while I was in office we increased human services and parks funding and instituted environmental mini-grants. Due to our solid financial position, Shoreline was able to procure extremely favorable rates for both the financing of the new City Hall and the Park Bond during my term in office.

As a private citizen I served on the Park Bond Citizen Advisory Committee for the City's first publicly voted Bond measure. I was proud to then vote for it on the City Council. It was immensely satisfying to be instrumental throughout the Park Bond Project's full life cycle including implementation of many park and open spaces projects: Providing policy direction in acquiring (and saving for public ownership) 15.6 acres of South Woods - a lowland urban forest and Kruckeberg Botanic Garden - rich in native plants of the Pacific Northwest and unusual species; upgrading our sports fields, restoring Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, Boeing Creek Park, and Southwoods trail corridor, then performing the ribbon-cutting duties.

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.

Association of Washington Cities

2008 - 2009

#### **Board of Directors**

Elected annually to At-Large Position #1 Western cities (population >5,000). Member of the first Federal Legislative Committee.

Suburban Cities Association

2006 - 2009

#### **Policy Issues Committee (2008)**

#### **Budget Sub Committee (2008-2009)**

#### **King County Regional Transit Committee (2009 Alternate)**

#### **enterpriseSeattle Board of Directors (2006-2009)**

Represented the City of Shoreline on the PIC; invited to join the Budget Sub Committee as King County struggled through the budget shortfalls. Represented Suburban Cities Association on the KC RTC and enterpriseSeattle

SeaShore Transportation Forum

2006 - 2009

#### **City of Shoreline Representative**

Advisory Board to King County on regional transportation issues and funding requests. Served on the Joint

Transportation Forum Committee to craft and negotiate a Forum agreement for all King County cities, including Seattle to endorse while maintaining productive working relationships with surrounding suburban cities. Advocated for invitation and inclusion of South Snohomish County & cities (Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace) to be at the table along with Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville for the advisory discussions and decisions.

**President & Board Member:** Shoreline Chamber of Commerce 2004 - Present  
President of the Chamber 2004 - 2005. Board Member and currently President of the Dollars for Scholars Chapter. Procured funding for and established the Chamber's Green Business Program. 2008 North King County Green Business Conference. Established and conducted Candidates & Issues Forums with League of Women Voters.

32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization 2003 - Present  
**Executive Board, Campaign Coordinator, State Committeewoman, Committees**  
2004: District Campaign Coordinator. Coordinated campaigns throughout Shoreline, Edmonds, Lake Forest Park, unincorporated Snohomish & King Counties.  
2005-Present: State Committeewoman to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee  
2010: Established and currently chairing the Affirmative Action Committee

**Board Member:** Richmond Beach Community Association 2004 - 2006  
Elected to a very well-established and active neighborhood association which was approaching its centennial year. Represented about 5,000 residents while collaboratively planning and actively participating in frequent neighborhood meetings and activities that drew attendants from the rest of the community. Advised on Brightwater mitigation negotiations and park amenities planning. Once on the City Council, subsequently voted to name the park Kayu Kayu Ac in honor of native people's use of the area's flora. Represented the RBCA in the Council of Neighborhoods.

**Board Member:** International Community Health Services Foundation 2008 - 2010  
Joined the new organization in its first year. Fund raise, advocate for future site in North King County, public relations and outreach.

**General Advisory Committee Member:** Shoreline School District 2010  
Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education Program, Employ-ability and Leadership of our students.

**Advisory Board Member:** UW Business and Economic Development Center 2010  
Contribute leadership, expertise, and counsel for BEDC Staff and Dean of the Business School to implement programs and activities for small businesses, economically distressed/emerging communities, and Business School students. Provide connections to key leaders, fundraising assistance, and expertise to developing the philosophy and work of designing, implementing, and evaluating programs.

United Presbyterian Church of Seattle, Edmonds, WA 1983 - Present  
**Member, Treasurer, Finance & Planning**  
Taught Sunday School, led Children's Ministry services, and was treasurer for the elementary program. Grant Writer for the Summer Feeding Program, the only site in the Edmonds School District in 2010.

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

**According to the Washington State Constitution, the paramount duty of the State Legislature is to provide a quality public education for all children living within Washington State. In addition to this duty, the Legislature oversees a multi-billion dollar biennial budget that impacts social services for the vulnerable, and infrastructure projects that ensure our economy's long-term strength.**

**As a 40-year resident of Washington State, my foremost concern is using government to invest in a successful future for all Washingtonians, rather than emphasizing any particular duty. A strong, equitable education system is absolutely necessary to prepare our children for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy; expanded investment into green technologies, physical and social infrastructure, and strategic business partnerships are essential to ensure the long-term economic health and fiscal stability of our State.**

**I intend to be an effective and accessible representative for my district. Already the first Korean American woman mayor in U.S. history, upon my election to the State House of Representatives I will become the first Korean American woman legislator in Washington. With the potential to attract national and international attention, I intend to be a powerful advocate for our State.**