

## 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
Claudia		Kauffman

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

**Washington State Senator, 47<sup>th</sup> District**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**9 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**40 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Friends of Claudia Kauffman

Address:      PO Box 845

City/State/Zip:      Kent, WA 98035

Campaign Phone:      (253) 737-4622

Campaign Fax:      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:      Claudia@claudiaforsenate.com

Campaign Website:      Claudiaforsenate.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)
Washington State Senator, 47 <sup>th</sup> District	Elective	2007 to present	Assistant Majority Whip Vice-chair of Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee
Early Learning Advisory Council	Appointive	2007 to present	
Thrive By Five Washington Board of Directors	Appointive	2007 to present	
The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees	Appointive	2001-2007	
Governor's Committee on Disabilities and Employment	Appointive	1999	

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.)

**As the State Senator for the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, I am running for reelection to continue to fight for working families in the legislature and serve the needs of my constituents.**

**Four years ago, I ran for the legislature in order to represent the unique needs of my district in South King County. I fulfilled my promises of opposing tax increases that would increase the burden on families and businesses. I fulfilled my promise to fight for education and became the vice-chair for early learning on the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee.**

**I am running to continue work on education reform and the development of a statewide early learning program. I am running to make sure that working families are heard as law is crafted in the legislature. I am running to represent the people of the district that gave me the honor of serving them in the Senate as faithfully as I can; whether it is during the consideration of public policy, or when a constituent needs help navigating state services and regulations.**

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

**During the deadline driven work of the legislative session, bills can often go through the committee process with a lot of unexamined assumptions. I question each time I read a bill how the proposed policy would affect the people of Washington. During committee and caucus discussions, I question what the goal of the bill is and its unintended consequences. I listen to constituents' concerns about proposed bills, on both sides of the issue. I take the charge of deliberation seriously.**

**The valuable experiences I've had growing up in a working class household, and as a mother and foster mother advocating for children in our schools and foster care system brings perspective to how public policy affects all of our lives.**

**The values I was raised with inform all that I do: protecting the vulnerable, teaching our children, and honoring our elders and veterans. Those values are reflected in my work at the legislature and in my personal life. I am truly a citizen legislator, working hard for the people I represent and working hard in my job outside the Senate to pay my mortgage.**

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 the Senate, I am most proud of the work I've done to preserve and improve early learning programs in Washington State. Over the last four years, through an incredible amount of collaboration and negotiation, we are now finishing the early learning plan to provide a statewide program of early learning. Strong prekindergarten programs are an important piece of improving our students' success in their Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade years and beyond.**

**Before I was elected to the Senate, I coordinated the Oglala Sioux Tribe's easement program for construction of their water pipeline system. Managing this aspect of a large public works project required coordination between federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Tribal Council, local water districts, the Army Corps of Engineers, the County, and landowners. The project called for a close attention to landowner concerns, federal regulations, archeological preservation, and a strict construction timeline. This experience has served me well in the legislature, which also requires an attention to detail while maintaining focus on the main goal.**

**In my job outside of public office, I coordinate the Muckleshoot Tribe's charitable giving program. To make the giving program effective, I outreach to local nonprofit organizations, assess community needs, and track requests from the community. I then present recommendations to the Tribal Council for their approval. The Muckleshoot Charity Fund has a large positive impact and I am proud to be able to work with so many local nonprofits and support their work in our community.**

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.

**Foster mother to ten foster children, 1984 - 1990**

**Parent of students in our public schools, 1985 - present**

**Community organizing, civic engagement programs, women's leadership – Native Action Network 2001-present**

**Kent School District Chair for the Native American Parent Advisory Committee, 2003-2007**

**Advocate for early learning on the Early Learning Advisory Council and Thrive by Five Washington, 2007 to present.**

**Member of the Kent Chamber of Commerce, and main contact with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe for the Kent Chamber, 2005-Present**

**Advocate for higher education on the Evergreen State College School Board, 2001-2007**

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

**The role of a State Senator is to represent the people of their district. The primary duty is to represent the people as bills are crafted and come up for a vote. This means listening to constituents and communicating your position to your constituents. The State Senator must also represent the people when they need assistance with state agencies. Communicating with constituents about what is happening in their legislature and listening to the concerns of the people you represent is critical to our democratic process.**

**The careful creation and deliberation of bills before they become law is the most important job of the State Senator. The votes that members of the legislature take have an incredible impact on people's lives.**