

## 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
David		Spring

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

**House of Representatives, 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Position 2**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**17 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**32 years**

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

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

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      Spring for House

Address:      P.O. Box 57

City/State/Zip:      North Bend WA 98045

Campaign Phone:      425- 888- 3042

Campaign Fax:      NA

Campaign E-mail:      springforhouse@aol.com

Campaign Website:      Springforhouse.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)
Legislative Chairperson, Elementary School PTA	Elective	2008 to present	Serve on Elementary School PTA Board
Washington State Child Support Work Group	Appointive	Fall 2007 to 2008	
King County Middle Fork Planning Commission	Appointive	1996 to 1998	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
House of Representatives 5 <sup>th</sup> Legislative 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 office because our State's families are facing many important problems and I want to help solve them. I have a Master's Degree in Education and I have taught courses in problem solving for nearly 20 years. I am also a parent. I think these experiences will help me represent the families of the Fifth District.**

**The most important problem we face is inadequate funding for education. Twenty years ago, our State was 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation in funding for education. We are now 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation. In the past 2 years, our legislature cut funding for public schools by nearly one billion dollars. At the same time, our legislature is giving away billions of dollars in corporate welfare to some of the richest corporations in the history of the world. According to the Washington State Department of Revenue, total tax exemptions have skyrocketed from \$20 billion per year in 2000 to \$50 billion per year by 2009. It is time for our State legislature to meet its legal obligation to fully fund public education. I am offering a precise and detailed solution to this problem which is outlined on my website: [fairschoolfundingcoalition.org](http://fairschoolfundingcoalition.org) which calls for requiring millionaires and major corporations to start paying their fair share of State taxes.**

**A second pressing problem in the Fifth Legislative District is employment. Over 70% of economic activity comes from middle class spending and over 70% of all new jobs are generated by small businesses. We will not have an economic recovery without tax relief for middle class homeowners and small businesses. For the past 2 years, I have advocated for reducing property taxes on homeowners and eliminating B & O taxes on very small businesses as a way of stimulating the economy and generating new jobs. Our current funding system is the most regressive of any State in America. It is extremely unfair to the poor and middle class. For two years, I have proposed a "high earners income tax" as a new source of funding which would more fairly distributes the burden among all of our citizens and which would reduce the amount of taxation for 97% of our citizens. Recently Bill Gates Senior has come out in favor of this proposal which is now called Initiative 1098. I am working hard to get signatures to put this Initiative on the Fall 2010 ballot.**

**Complex problems require bold and creative solutions. I have shown that I can analyze problems and provide effective solutions which will restore funding for our public schools and get our economy moving in the right direction again.**

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

**My most important trait is that I am a dedicated researcher. I work hard to understand the underlying causes of problems before proposing solutions. This requires not only a willingness to read scientific studies, and other past research on problems, but a willingness to listen to families and others directly affected by problems.**

**I am also good at conflict resolution. I believe in win-win solutions that involve everyone affected by a problem. I am particularly concerned about inclusion of those not well represented in the problem solving process. This includes children, minorities and those in lower income groups.**

**I think it is helpful that I am a parent myself. I understand how much parents are concerned about the future of their children.**

**Finally, I think it is helpful that I have been a teacher for over 20 years. Often the key to solving problems involves helping others learn about underlying causes, and the advantages and shortcomings of potential options. This in turn requires the ability to organize information. This scaffolding of knowledge is a key aspect of teaching.**

**Two years ago, I was publicly ridiculed by my opponent for proposing a tax on millionaires as a way to solve our school funding problem. I have spent the past 2 years building support for this proposal among political and community leaders. Recent polls show that 67% of the voters are in favor of Initiative 1098. I am now working hard to make sure 1098 gets on the Fall Ballot.**

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 have worked hard to be a good parent The fact that my daughter is doing well in school – despite going to one of the most over-crowded and under-funded schools in American - is my greatest accomplishment to date.**

**In April 2009, Democrats in the State legislature wanted to eliminate over \$100 million in levy equalization funding for poor rural school districts. Together with Representative Maralyn Chase and Senator Jim Kastama, I was able to put together a coalition of Republicans and concerned Democrats to defeat this proposal.**

**Even though I live in one of the most conservative anti-tax legislative districts in Washington State, I was able to convince a majority of the voters of the 5<sup>th</sup> District to vote NO on Initiative 1033 and thereby protect funding for our public schools. So these are three things I have already accomplished.**

**But if I can get Initiative 1098 on the Fall Ballot, and provide an urgently needed additional source of \$700 million dollars per year in stable funding for our public schools as well as \$300 million in health care funding and one billion in tax relief for homeowners and small businesses- this will be an even greater achievement.**

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.

**My public career began in 1974 when I graduated with a degree in Education from Washington State University. I spent a year as a VISTA volunteer assisting the Lakota Native Americans in South Dakota. I then spent about ten years as a volunteer in King County Search and Rescue. This was followed by 10 years as a small business owner and 20 years as an instructor at Bellevue Community College. The last few years have been spent as a Graduate student and researcher at the University of Washington. My areas of specialty have been child development and improving math and science education. Most recently, I have taught courses in Web Design at Seattle Central Community College and served as the Director of the Fair School Funding Coalition, a non-profit educational organization devoted to restoring school funding in our State to at least the national average. I view my whole life as being involved in community service. Certainly one does not get into teaching to make money but rather to help others.**

**Along the way, I served on both King County and Washington State Commissions. I also have been actively involved in both the Peace Movement, the Environmental movement, the YMCA and my Elementary School PTA. So I have a background in many areas of public service.**

**I decided to run for office in March of 2008 after our school district lost its third school construction bond measure in less than two years. I realized our school funding problem was not in North Bend, but in Olympia. In the 2008 election, I got 6,000 more votes than any Democratic candidate in the history of the 5<sup>th</sup> LD (nearly 34,000 votes) – despite spending less than \$25,000 – making me the only legislative challenger in the entire State running a competitive race in a swing district to get more votes than dollars spent!**

**Since 2008, I have continued to advocate for increased school funding. I am optimistic that I will win in 2010 and that Initiative 1098 will also win – resulting in additional stable funding for our public schools.**

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

**I think a Representative has two primary duties. The first is to represent the families of the District. This means listening to their problems and concerns and letting others in Olympia know about those problems and concerns. The second duty is to work towards actually solving the problems of the families in the District so that those families can have happy and productive lives.**

**Since 2008, I have gotten to know many of the legislators in Olympia. While some are dedicated public servants, most are very poorly informed about the problems facing our State and the advantages and drawbacks of potential solutions. They seem to be more concerned about being re-elected than achieving effective solutions.**

**It takes a great deal of time to research solutions to problems. So I now think the most important duty of a legislator is to spend the time to do the research so that the laws they enact make things better rather than worse. I think that being an effective researcher and educator will be the most important skill I will bring to Olympia.**