

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
Derek		Stanford

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

State Representative, Position 1, Legislative District 1

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

2 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

13 years

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

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

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Friends of Derek Stanford**

Address: **PO Box 2041**

City/State/Zip: **Bothell WA 98041**

Campaign Phone: **425-481-6231**

Campaign Fax: **n/a**

Campaign E-mail: **derekstanford2010@gmail.com**

Campaign Website: **www.derekstanford.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)
None			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
None	

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'm running for State Representative because I believe Olympia can do better. Let's get back to basics: get people back to work and fund our priorities in education, the environment, and transportation.

We need to rebuild our economy on a foundation of jobs with health care and living wages. We need to help companies bring jobs in, help them keep jobs here, and support workers who want safe and respectful working conditions. As we recover from the recession, we need to learn from our mistakes to avoid repeating them. We've seen what happens when a few banks take huge risks and lose – we all end up paying the price. I had a front-row seat to watch the mortgage meltdown while I was building fraud detection models for the mortgage industry, and I want to make sure that can't happen again.

A major education reform bill was passed in 2009, but without sufficient funding. We need to fully fund basic education at the state level, and return the education levies to their original intent of providing enrichment rather than basic operations.

We have a responsibility to future generations to be good stewards of the environment. We need to take responsibility for cleaning up problems left to us by earlier generations, and, again, we need to learn from past mistakes to avoid repeating them. As we develop effective ways of dealing with past and current environmental problems, we will be stimulating new green businesses which can take these methods to the rest of the country and the world.

An effective transportation system requires flexibility and options. We can't meet our needs with any one single transit mode – we need a mix of roads and rail, buses and bikes. Right now, we should focus on two goals: accelerating current capital projects, such as replacing the 520, and expanding the choices available, such as hike/bike trails and park & rides, so people have real practical options for transportation.

We also need to take better care of our kids and seniors. We need to restore funding to the Basic Health program so that affordable health care is available to low income seniors and others. We need to protect the Apple Health for Kids program, which leverages federal dollars to provide low cost health care to children.

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

In my professional life, I am a statistician. I examine data with an open mind and come up with solutions based on facts. I enjoy diving into the details and the numbers. I'm not a politician, and I am often disappointed when our elected officials are bogged down in process rather than examining facts, analyzing problems and delivering results. This fact-driven approach is the way I would approach my job as a State Legislator.

When I was growing up, my father was a Republican and my mother was a Democrat. In dinner table discussions, I was always challenged to think for myself instead of just repeating talking points. I also learned early in life that it is possible to disagree with someone and still respect them and find common ground. I believe that it is important to understand a person's concerns even when you disagree with them; sometimes you can find ways to solve, or at least mitigate, their concerns while still accomplishing your goals.

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 1999, I completed a PhD in Statistics at the University of Washington. Earning this degree was a long and difficult endeavor. Beyond the challenging technical curriculum, this process demanded tenacity and patience over several years. To support myself during this time, I worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant in the Statistics department; this helped me learn how to communicate complicated technical concepts to people unfamiliar with them.

In January of 2003, I opened my own business as a statistical consultant. I had worked on a few consulting projects previously, and I knew that I enjoyed working directly with clients. As a consultant, I would help clients understand issues from a quantitative perspective, and then design and execute an analysis plan, often reaching out to other experts to fill in any gaps. This process required not only excellent communication skills, but also the ability to work with many different kinds of people and bring them all together to work toward a common goal.

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.

2003-2006 and 2009-Present, Steering Committee Member, SEAMEC (www.seamec.org): Originally founded in 1977, SEAMEC works for LGBT equality by evaluating candidates for office through questionnaires and interviews. I helped develop candidate questionnaires, interviewed candidates, contacted legislators, worked with allied groups, and went to Olympia to advocate for equality.

2009-Present, Membership Chair and Delegate to the King County Labor Council, WashTech (www.washtech.org): In this position I have worked on outreach to tech workers who are having problems with their employers, and as a member of the WashTech Planning Committee, I have participated in strategic planning and financial oversight. Being involved with the King County Labor Council has been quite educational about the concerns of the labor community.

2005-2006, Board Member, Washington Public Campaigns (www.washclean.org): I advocated in Olympia to allow local municipalities the freedom to implement public campaigns; this included meeting with legislators and building coalitions with other advocacy groups.

2003-2004, Fellow, Institute for a Democratic Future (www.democraticfuture.org): In this leadership training program, I traveled around the state to learn about the needs and concerns of different communities. I met with farmers in eastern Washington, tribal members in Snohomish County, and others. This was a tremendous educational opportunity which helped give me a wider perspective on the issues facing our state.

2002-2004, Volunteer, University District Food Bank (www.udistrictfoodbank.org): As a volunteer, I made regular pickups from bakeries and cafes for the food bank, and I also assisted with bagging and client check-in. Working at a food bank allowed me to see first-hand some of the needs in the community; I saw clearly that anyone can encounter tough times in life regardless of their background. It also illustrates ways that businesses, individuals, and government can come together to address community needs.

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

The most important duty of a legislator is to listen. As laws and budgets are crafted, it is essential to hear from all stakeholders about their needs and concerns, as well as reaching out to subject matter experts who can contribute useful ideas. This is the only way to minimize unintended consequences and maximize the chance of accomplishing our intended goals.

Legislators also have to communicate. Transparency and accountability in government has to start at the top, with leaders explaining what they are trying to do and how they are doing it. Citizens should be able to see for themselves whether programs and policies are working; this helps empower citizens to voice their concerns and priorities.

Legislators are responsible for the state budget and for creating laws which the executive branch implements. This includes many critical areas, such as education, public health and safety, transportation, social services, natural resources and the environment, and consumer protection. Among all of these critical roles, legislators are constantly faced with tough choices, especially in the current recession. Legislators have a duty to drill down into the details on a wide variety of issues and understand the practical impacts of their choices so that they can prioritize budget items and policy goals.